Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Daily Report
Supplement

Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
Majlis Deputies View Ministerial Candidates

FBIS-NES-93-181-S
Tuesday
21 September 1993

Near East & South Asia
SUPPLEMENT
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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 15 Aug

93LA0215A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
16 Aug 93 pp 3, 5, 6, 15

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session for more than 10 hours yesterday morning and afternoon, with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding. After the speech of the president, the supporters and opponents of the ministers proposed by the president made speeches. Some of the material was published yesterday. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Beytollah Ja'fari, Supporting

Beytollah Ja'fari, the deputy of the people of Urmia, pointing out that in obedience to the grand leader and to serve the people, he will give his vote of confidence to the new Cabinet, he said: The change of six ministers who were objected to by the Majles made the examination of the Cabinet of the president easy.

In another part of his speech, referring to the competence of Mr. Besharati to take charge of the Ministry of Interior, he said: I hope he will cleanse the Ministry of Interior of the filth of the presence of some well-known people who had infiltrated it in an opportunistic manner and for many years have caused trouble.

Mr. Ja'fari referred to the success of the minister of agriculture in the area of wheat production and termed Mr. Najafi a successful minister.

He mentioned Dr. Marandi as one who was trained in the years around 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964] and said: The domination of his commitment and religiousness over the other dimensions of his character is clear. Unfortunately, after Mr. Marandi, the ministry suffered weakness and also disregard for religious issues and values.

Referring to Mr. Foruzandeh, the minister of defense, he said: Because of his efforts during the war, Mr. Foruzandeh received two medals, first-rank and second-rank of victory from the hand of the grand leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Continuing, he defended the work of Mr. Kamali and said: In the Third Majles, I witnessed the constant efforts of Mr. Kamali in defending the rights of the large stratum of the noble workers.

Mohammad Naser Tavassolizadeh, Supporting

Supporting the proposed ministers, the speaker explained the proposed programs of the ministers of culture and higher education; education; information; agriculture; construction jihad; economic affairs and finance; post, telegraph and telephone; justice; housing; and health and treatment and pointed out: For every responsibility that the honorable ministers accept, they must themselves answer for their carrying out of the programs and its goals and account for their own problems.

Referring to the economic programs of the next government, Mr. Tavassolizadeh said: Even though going through the quite centralized economic conditions during the war and entering the conditions of development and economic modification, some steps have been taken, and it has been serious in its goal of the participation of the people, although it is natural that in this period of construction and in this passage of modifications some pressures be created and some pressures are put on low-income groups and even high-income individuals, who under the previous conditions made great profits, this passage and, as it is commonly interpreted, this surgery, must not result in harming the revolution and the masses who support the revolution.

He added: In economic policy making, attention should not be merely paid to the district programs in the absence of regional programs.

Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni, Supporting

He devoted his speech to the issue of education and said: The competence of tomorrow's constructive generation depends on proper planning in education, which along with other fields of this kind will especially establish the foundations of our Islamic culture. With its calculated programs in the First Five-Year Plan, the Ministry of Education has been very successful.

Praising the efforts of the minister of education, he said: Efforts have been made to bring our dear educators social dignity, pay serious attention to providing for their welfare, apply a scientific approach to educational problems, and value research in this sector.

In regards to the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, he said: In the area of sciences and higher education, also, despite all the efforts that were made, still in the universities and institutions of higher education sometimes certain shortages prevented desirable growth. It is hoped that with the new minister, the innovative professor Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, who is from an established, well-known family in science and religious jurisprudence, it will reach the desirable level.

Referring to the role of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in advancing culture in the society, he considered the programs of Mr. Larijani, the minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, in conformity with the moral and Islamic standards and expressed hope that in the near future we will witness the attainment of the lofty goals and the effective presence of these standards on national and global levels.

He also considered the operations of the Ministry of Agriculture as successful and, referring to the industrial ministries, said: This sector has had a 15-percent growth, which is ahead of the Plan. I hope with the efforts of Dr. Nezhad-Hoseynian and Engineer Ne'matzadeh, the recent problems of the national industries, which are mostly due to the just modification policies, will be resolved. In conclusion, he termed the operations of the Ministries of Mines and Metals, Economic Affairs and Finance, and Foreign Affairs successful.

Seyyed Kamaloddin Shahriari, Supporting

He first said: Because of my five years experience in the Majles, I can claim that the Cabinet presented by the president is more distinguished than previous Cabinets. The reason is the harmony and intellectual solidarity of the government and the Majles, in which obedience to the grand

leader and, in order to achieve the central focus of following the Imam's line, obedience to the leader and support for Hashemi took place.

Mr. Shahriari pointed out: Another distinction of the new Cabinet is its content and composition. Mr. Hashemi has gathered a group of the most committed experts and innovative managers among the forces in the country. We hope that with their help he will take another long and courageous step toward carrying out the Second Economic and Social Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said: In the Cabinet, there are valuable and capable forces, such as Dr. Kalantari, the minister of agriculture, who has helped materialize the long-held hope for agricultural self-sufficiency through total wheat production in the country, which is a distinct indicator of agricultural self-sufficiency in the world.

There are valuable and capable forces, such as Dr. Larijani, the minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, whose constructive actions in expanding authentic Islamic culture and arts and preventing cultural invasion is known to everyone.

He added: There are valuable and capable forces, such as Dr. Najafi, the minister of education, who has been an effective factor in the increase in the quantity and quality of students who must be educated in the country.

Mr. Shahriari pointed out: In the new Cabinet, there are new valuable and capable forces, such as Dr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, the minister of heavy industries; Engineer Akhundi, the minister of housing and urban development; Engineer Torkan, the minister of roads and transport; Mr. Besharati, the minister of interior; Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance; Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs; and Dr. Marandi, the minister of health, treatment and medical education.

Supporting Engineer Gharazi, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, he said: In addition to Mr. Gharazi, we have found several people who are most capable of accepting executive responsibility.

He said: Modern and advanced technology is not something that can easily be achieved. In regards to post and communication, both in production and design as well as in implementation, hopeful steps towards development have been taken. In continuation of his speech, defending Mr. Mahlouji, the minister of mines and metals, the deputy from Bushehr referred to the activities of this ministry and said: I defend a minister who has carried out all of his obligations and, in fact, by doing so has proven his commitment to the decrees of the leader, the honorable president and the Majles, and the Five-Year Plan in practice.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Abutorabi, the representative of the leader in the affairs of the freed prisoners of war is here. Certainly, he is one of the most just and fair deputies of the Majles in this term, about whose sincerity and frankness there is no doubt. In numerous letters to the grand leader, he has spoken about the unhesitating cooperation of Mr. Mahlouji and has thanked and praised him on many occasions.

Karim Zare', Supporting

The deputy from Shiraz thanked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for introducing new and distinguished faces, particularly Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, and said: It is hoped that with their decisive votes for the ministers presented by this revered religious jurist and old friend of the Imam, the deputies will strike a strong blow to the mouth of those who speak nonsense and the global oppressors and prove in practice that they will always support decisively the friends of the beloved Imam and the investments of the Islamic revolution as well.

He also announced his support for Messrs. Najafi, Kalantari, Nezhad-Hoseynian, and Torkan and pointed out: With my knowledge of some of the ministers, I will inform the deputies and the people of the following. Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, who was born to a religious, clerical family, has always been highly active and exemplary and has continued his work following the path of pure Mohammadan Islam. With his efforts, he has been a source of valuable cultural and constructive changes and has become an example for the young faculty and researchers of the universities in the country. He added: He has published a total of 55 books and articles in well-known scientific journals. He has also been in practice especially interested in the creation and expansion of specialized doctoral programs.

He then mentioned the various important responsibilities of Mr. Hashemi-Golpayegani and said: I will give him a positive vote.

In continuation, Dr. Zare' enumerated the programs proposed by the new minister of culture nd higher education and, praising the personality of Dr. Velayati for being in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed hope that the decisive vote of the deputies will strengthen the president and the presented ministers more than ever before, so that they also will engage in the appointment of competent deputies and directors.

Nur-Mohammad Rabanbeh, Supporting

I will start my talk in support of the honorable Cabinet of dear Mr. Hashemi and the work of the honorable minister of information, Mr. Fallahian.

During his tenure, he made great strides for the sacred, divine regime and towards the preservation of security. All the problems that you dear ones witnessed existing in the country were eliminated with the efforts and perceptiveness of the honorable deputies. He has also provided programs such as the following in the Ministry: The creation of order and stability in the Ministry; making the whole ministry active; providing the needed resources of the personnel; creating fear in the heart of certain groups and inflicting deadly blows on them; creating security, considering the economic situation; and promoting the growth of the quality of the personnel in various dimensions. I hope that the dear deputies of the people, with their decisive vote, will support this dear one in his programs, and I will also give him a positive vote.

The honorable minister of interior, Mr. Besharati, who has spent his life for the victory of dear Islam, has spent the best days of his life in the prisons of the cruel monarchical regime and, with the victory of the revolution, was at the service of our late leader. I offer him my positive vote.

The honorable minister of agriculture, who is one of the well-known and hard working figures, has used his programs to control agriculture and agricultural imports, and in

regards to his efforts, suffice it to say that he has brought the level of domestic production to the last production index, considering the resources and capability of the country.

The honorable minister of health, treatment and medical education, Dr. Marandi, who is an experienced servant of the divine regime, is an individual who is faithful. God willing, his presence will be a blessing for the deprived.

The honorable minister of post, telegraph and telephone, who has been and is a servant of the sacred divine regime, and in the farthest parts of the country the people are familiar with his work, he who is the source of many valuable services, I hope that he will receive the support of the deputies, and I, too, give him my vote of confidence.

The minister of industries, Engineer Ne'matzadeh, has rendered a great service to the creation of employment, the growth of industry, valuing the members of the society in industry, and providing the needed resources for the industrial workshops, to preserve the goals of the divine regime. I hope for the support of the deputies, and I, too, will give him a vote of confidence.

The honorable minister of cooperatives, for his valuable service to the cooperatives and following up their affairs, and in regards to devising laws and his valuable support and services, is worthy of mention. The honorable minister of culture and higher education, whose past activities through the revolution indicate his sincerity and truthfulness, warrants our overall support.

He supported the proposed ministers of jihad, energy, mines and metals, foreign affairs, heavy industries, economic affairs and finance, defense, roads and transport, labor and social affairs, and justice and thanked them for their valuable efforts and services at this sensitive juncture in the country.

Golmohammad Elyasi, Supporting

Mr. Elyasi, the deputy from Zarqan, endorsed the entire presented Cabinet and said: The presentation of new ministers in the Cabinet is a giant step, which upon brief examination is very hopeful for coordination and unity between the government and the Majles, and for each of whom one can enumerate special attributes.

In regards to the minister of interior, the deputy from Zarqan said: Because the Ministry of Interior has a sensitive role in providing internal security, and those affiliated with it are the representatives of the government in the farthest areas of the country and as models of the officials of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic, it is appropriate that it be headed by an experienced, popular figure. Thank God, these characteristics can be seen clearly in Mr. Besharati. His deep belief in religious guardianship and Koranic knowledge and his bravery, resistance, self-sacrifice and patience in the face of pressures show a distinguished and exemplary human being.

He then said in regards to the minister of cooperatives: I hope the cooperative sector under the sincere administration of brother Engineer Shafi'i, who is one of the concerned individuals of the Islamic revolution, will be able to succeed in establishing the rule of the deprived in the society.

In connection with the presentation of Mr. Forouzandeh as the minister of defense, the deputy from Zarqan said: He is one of the brilliant faces of holy struggle and martyrdom and is one of the distinguished ministers of the country. Hence, my vote for him will be positive.

In regards to the Ministry of Agriculture, he said: The Ministry of Agriculture, due to its careful activities and planning to increase agricultural products and self-sufficiency in the country, especially in succeeding in implementing the First Plan and reaching its goals, deserves appreciation and gratitude.

In regards to the Ministry of Construction Jihad, Elyasi said: At the head of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, the sincere and committed brother, Engineer Forouzesh, is himself an example of self-sacrifice and effort toward eliminating poverty from the villages of the country.

In regards to Mr. Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, the deputy from Zarqan said: The honorable minister of petroleum, Mr. Aqazadeh, while succeeding in the implementation of the oil policies of the Islamic Republic on the world market, has displayed significant initiative in advancing the oil industry and promoting the technology in various fields of this industry, including natural gas outreach and petrochemical industries. During the imposed war, under the concerned and perceptive administration of the minister of petroleum, no serious void in terms of providing the energy and fuel needed in the country was created, and the export of oil did not stop even for one day.

In regards to the work of Engineer Gharazi, the minister of post and telegraph, the deputy from Zarqan said: Engineer Gharazi's efforts are among the major actions, which took place in eliminating communications deprivation in the country, the selection of timely and proper new scientific technology, and training the needed and capable manpower, in which he has played a great role.

In regards to the minister of information, he said: I must thank the honorable minister of information for his active presence, and that of the sincere forces of that ministry, who are the true guardians of the revolution of people's rights against the tyrants, terrorists, and aggressors, and I hope that he will be more successful in continuing this responsibility with a strong vote.

Concerning the presentation of Dr. Marandi as the minister of health and treatment, Mr. Elyasi said: As for the honorable minister of health and treatment, Dr. Marandi, his past record speaks of his compassion and familiarity with ailments.

'Ali Damesh-Monfared, Supporting

Mr. Damesh-Monfared, supporting the new vote of all the ministers presented by the president, asked the Majles deputies to give their vote of confidence to the new Cabinet with unity and decisiveness.

Referring to the programs of Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, and agreeing with these programs, he said: The Ministry of Petroleum is one of the important and key ministries of the country, upon which, unfortunately, due to the wrong policies of the past regime, a large percentage of the national budget depends.

Our great nation and all of us agree that the sincere and faithful employees of this ministry played a significant role in loyalty to the late leader of the Islamic revolution and the

Islamic movement, and the competent and specialized employees of this industry displayed great heroism in the course of the movement. Thus far, this great national and future capital of the country has been managed well.

Referring to the criticism posed concerning the operations of the Ministry of Petroleum and the examination of these problems and criticisms by the Petroleum Affairs Committee of the Majles, he said: The sessions of the Petroleum Affairs Committee were held regularly in the presence of a group of Majles deputies in a professional manner, and the honorable minister of petroleum and his deputies responded to most of the questions in an acceptable and logical manner by offering numbers, figures, and documents, and on the whole the Petroleum Affairs Committee decided to vote positively for him.

The deputy of the people of Tafresh and Ashtian pointed out: I and all the members of the Petroleum Committee of the Majles, considering the long experience of Mr. Aqazadeh in this industry and his good management, request that the honorable Majles give him a decisive vote, and we will all vote for him.

Also supporting Mr. Gharazi, the proposed minister for the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, he said: In addition to having known him for 32 years closely, I think he is essentially an expert and religious person, who has spent all of his life on the path of Islam and obedience to the late Imam. He is a person who is highly specialized and has a long history of experience, and his services to the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran are significant.

Qorban'ali, Dari-Najafabadi, Supporting

Stating that we must place obedience to the leader and the religious guardian and guarding the Islamic values and the directives of the late Imam at the foundation of our programs, Dari-Najafabadi said: Also, we must place fighting corruption and bribery and preventing the influence of deviant foreign ideas at the top of our programs.

In another part of his speech, the deputy from Tehran considered unity among the ministers who play a significant role in the training of the work force necessary and said: The serious issue in every kind of change and development is training a competent, specialized, and qualified work force for the future management of the country. Hence, it is necessary that the concerned ministers have solidarity and congeniality with one another and examine the situation of the work force in the country together.

We all know well about the brilliant record and personality of Mr. Hashemi-Golpayegani. From the time that we separated the Ministry of Health from the Ministry of Sciences, it would have been proper for our minister of sciences to no longer be a physician. Fortunately, because of his presence, a suitable change will occur in the university system in order for us to train the work force that will respond to our needs.

In continuation, he also mentioned the minister of education as a planner, administrator, and innovative thinker and expressed hope that he will be able to take essential steps in this regard by making use of concerned advisors. He also expressed hope that Dr. Marandi will use his experiences to take effective and valuable steps in the health and treatment sector.

Mr. Dari-Najafabadi mentioned continuing the present generic drugs project by the new minister of health and said: In the Islamic culture and guidance sector, fortunately, Dr. Larijani has taken very good steps during this period and has chosen good colleagues. We hope the next steps are taken more seriously, and there will be most of all coherence in his work and also cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In continuation, he praised Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and said: Under the present conditions, voting for him means that in our foreign policy we will follow the goals of the Imam and the leader of the revolution and enjoy full foreign policy stability.

He fully endorsed the operations of the Ministry of Energy and added: Engineer Zangeneh has been successful in his work, and we have added more than 3,400 megawatts of electricity in the past year to the circuit. In the roads sector also, we hope Engineer Torkan will be a good choice for the country.

In connection with the Ministry of Defense, I have known Mr. Foruzandeh since he was the governor-general of Khuzestan, and I evaluate the operations of other ministries positively. In conclusion, he announced that he will give his vote in support of the remainder of the proposed ministers.

Hasan Kamran, Opposing

Dr. Hasan Kamran-Dastjerdi said in his speech: The Islamic revolution extends beyond the region, because its message is natural. This message has effected the geopolitics of the region. Because of the power of the government of Mr. Hashemi, following the instructions of the religious guardian, this power continues to increase in the region.

In opposition to the policies of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, he said: In connection with privatizing, the actions of this ministry were hasty. For example, we can mention the steel group of Ahvaz. In a newspaper dated 14 Mordad [5 Aug], p.4, Mr. Mahluji said: If your question is, Do you want to sell the national group to the foreigners? the answer is clearly, No. If you ask, Have you sold it? the answer is clearly, No.

He added: The letter of intent, which I have in my hand, is signed by the Balni [as published] Company and Mr. Mazaheri from that company. In Paragraph 1, 76 percent of the shares of the Iranian National Industries Group have been offered to the Balni [as published] Company, and this company has announced its readiness to buy these shares.

In the mines sector, the action does not conform to the letter. What the minister presented to the Majles is a comparison with 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. In the mines sector, they had an annual growth of 21 percent. In the metals sector, we should have an average of 36.4 percent growth, which in practice is 25.9 percent.

The deputy from Esfahan continued: The production of Mobarakeh Steel was supposed to reach over 1 ton [as published] in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]. However, even by bringing some of the materials slip form, it has only reached 229,000 tons. In the area of ferrous alloys, in 1371, production was supposed to reach 45,000 tons, whereas up to 1371, production in this area has been zero. By 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], production was

supposed to reach 50,000 tons of ingot: and zinc, whereas on the basis of the presented plan, the maximum production has been 15,000 tons of lead in 1372. Also, 1.5 million tons of coal was supposed to be produced in 1371, while the operations show about 970,000 tons.

Stating that in the export sector as well, it has not been acted in accordance with the Plan, Dr. Kamran pointed out: We had decided to have $1.3 billion in exports. In the mines sector, during the period of five years, we have not even had $325 million in exports. We have only reached 25 percent of the goal of the Plan in exports in the mines sector. On the other hand, in connection with Mobarakeh Steel, out of 70 billion tomans that has been spent on this project, about 28 billion tomans is the total foreign currency, and this project was supposed to reach operation in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], which has been delayed and postponed to 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. [sentence as published]

He added: During the period of Shahrivar 1370 [23 August-22 September 1991] to the end of 1371 [20 Mar 1993], in the trial production phase, this complex was supposed to produce 2 million sheets of steel, and for this purpose the necessary iron ore at the price of $200 million was procured from abroad. The total estimated funds for this project, which were approved in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], are 80 billion tomans. My questions are: For what reason were the steel products sold to the M.N.C. Company and at a low price? For what reason were the steel ingots, which this company sold at $226 per ton, C & F [cost and freight] must be in the form of FOB [freight on board] at $241 in the National Steel Group of Ahvaz, be purchased from abroad at $280 per ton? For what reason did we raise the price of iron? We should have finished six or seven projects. Why did we only implement the al-Mehdi? In our administrative climate, for what reason did the previous director leave and a new director with five or six responsibilities come? For what reason was the Chador Melu equipment given to the Japanese company without any bidding? For what reason did a project that concerned $1,950 million spend $137 million? [as published] What is your expenditure for Khorasan Steel?

He pointed out: In connection with ceremonies, the minister of mines and metals should announce whether or not what has been done in this ministry conforms to the initiative of the grand leader.

In conclusion, for these reasons, the deputy from Esfahan announced his opposition to this minister.

Mohsen Yahyavi, Opposing

Engineer Mohsen Yahyavi, the deputy from Tehran, criticized the policies of the Ministry of Petroleum and said: An examination of the presented programs shows that much of the content is generalization and has long-term goals.

And some concerns past operations, which normally are not mentioned in the future plan, whereas the program must consist of those goals that can be achieved in the next four years with the existing resources of the country.

Referring to the program of the Ministry of Petroleum, he said: In projecting the capacity of the production of crude oil, we see the figure of 4.5 million barrels, which is contrary to the figures discussed in writing the Second Five-Year Plan. The average production during this Plan is stated at 4.5 million barrels, and to reach it, we must have the capacity for 5 million barrels of production. The program presented for the next four years of the Ministry of Petroleum is imbedded in the Second Five-Year Plan. In my opinion, neither the 5 million nor the 4.5 million barrels are achievable.

He asked the president, considering the experience of reliance on the unrealistic law of production and export of oil in the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget, the consequences of which we are witnessing today, not to trust these figures.

He added: The minister of petroleum, in order to implement the realistic sections of this program, or any other program that is close to reality, certainly needs capable colleagues who have a policy in line with the minister's policies, rather than for the minister to decide and for the deputy to do something else.

Referring to his visit to the Razi Petrochemical Complex, he pointed out: In a visit that took place upon the request of some of the experts in the complex, they said that an agreement was signed between the complex and the Hydrometin Company of Norway for administrative and technical support. According to the brothers, first, the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been ignored in that agreement, and, second, the task could have been done by Iranian experts.

He added: According to numerous meetings of the Petroleum Affairs Committee and the experts, which were held with the minister and the deputy minister for petrochemical affairs, both separately and jointly, after these meetings, the committee spent hours examining the English-language text, after which it became clear that simple English sentences were translated with mistakes and given to the committee. And then Messrs. Aqanadeh and Rahgozar also admitted it.

He also pointed out: After the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Petroleum has the most trips abroad, and in these trips they have certainly learned the languages.

The committee concluded that this agreement not only does not protect the interests of the Islamic Republic but is an insult to the revolution and the country. The conditions stated in this agreement would not be acceptable compared to those prior to the revolution, let alone to those after the revolution.

First, this agreement has been signed with a company which, according to the director general of the petrochemical industry, is our competitor. In other words, the more we increase the production of Razi Petrochemical Company, the more reduced are our purchases from this company. What sane person would sign a contract with such a partner to the agreement?

Engineer Yahyavi pointed out that one of the goals of signing the contract is the transfer of technology and said: This agreement clearly states that it includes no technology.

Mr. Rahgozar tried, by insulting the committee, to somehow cover up the issue of the transfer of technology and claimed: This is nothing, we have hundreds of contracts like it.

The deputy from Tehran, in continuing his speech, added: I dare say that this is a treason of trust. When we ask an

official, he must be a trustee of the people. Of course, in some instances, we must rely on the experts of the ministries. But the minister of petroleum, with his full cooperation with the committee, canceled this contract after the conclusion of the committee, and in the recent meeting with him he said: Upon examining the agreement, I also came to the opinion of the committee.

He also said: Faced with this position of the minister, Mr. Rahgozar and the members of the board of directors of the Petrochemical Company all claim that this agreement was the only savior of the Petrochemical Complex, and it was wrong to cancel it.

In exchanges for such a contract, the average monthly pay of an expert is $52,000. This does not include transportation and travel. I want to say, when there are such differences of opinion between the minister and those under him, certainly the program is not implemented.

I say to the minister: You have very good experts in the Ministry of Petroleum, who are supported by a 70-year record with the oil company. If you choose them, the committed forces and those who do not disrupt your work, certainly the result of their work will be much more. Now most of these experts are disappointed, and the others have escaped.

Khan 'Ali Pur-Qurban, Supporting

Fortunately, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with his understanding of individuals and the competent forces, truly has presented a relatively good collection to the Majles. They are faithful, committed people who will work hard to achieve the goals of the revolution, who are mostly well-known to the Majles and the martyr-nurturing people, because for several years they have been in charge of the executive responsibilities of the country and have gained experience.

The deputy from Kalayber explained: The Cabinet that has been presented has certain characteristics, and a suitable and special composition, which is the result of the tastes of Mr. Hashemi. Hence, it is acceptable. But what is at issue today, more than the vote of confidence in this Majles, is the display of Islamic unity between the legislative and executive branch, which to the enemies of Islam and the alienated minigroups who have their greedy eyes on various regions, shows the coherence and deep unity of the sacred foundations of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Praising the hard work and self-sacrifice of ministers who have not been presented, he spoke about the record and the efforts of the new ministers and said: Concerning Mr. Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, I strongly opposed him, but recently I became aware of certain items, that were published and issues that were stated, which woke me from my sleep.

He also praised the services of Messrs. Zanganeh, Velayati, Shafe'i, Mahluji, Gharazi, Kalantari, Nezhad-Hosseynian, and Forouzesh and asked for the deputies' vote of confidence for the members of the Cabinet.

He added: Despite the rumors concerning the indifference of the president in regards to not giving a vote of confidence for Messrs Forouzesh and Aqazadeh, we saw how the president defended these two revered persons and strongly denied the rumor.

He pointed out: Brother Forouzesh is an individual who spent his youth and energy on the front and in the holy struggle and is known throughout the whole country and among the combatants as the commander of the trench builders who have no trenches.

Mr. Pur-Qurban called Mr. Forouzesh the totem of service and holy struggle for the Revolution and said: Forouzesh will prove to the deprived and the oppressed that the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic will, with the weapons of service against treason, beat the drum of disgrace on the roofs of the mud houses of the villagers.

He emphasized: A vote for the minister of jihad is not a vote for the person of Forouzesh, but a vote for the values that he has been responsible for, has guarded, and created, and, God willing, he will continue to do so.

Ahmad Nilfar, Supporting

It is no secret to anyone that brother Besharati, who has been presented as the minister of interior, is a Muslim, a combative, alert, and pious individual, a diplomatic administrator, and resistant in fighting the heathen lines.

For years before the revolution, he never displayed any political tension and has always been one of the most distinguished individuals, one who has defended religious guardianship. Mr. Forouzandeh, Mr. Akhondi, and Mr. Torkan are sincere Basijis and combatants who grew up in the jihad and the Guard Corps institutions as the two institutions of the revolution and have so far accepted responsibility anywhere which has been expected.

Dr. Marandi is a Hezbollah fighter who has little expectations, who both spreads the importance of health and prevention through his initiative and special creativity in the Islamic country and also, by implementing the generic plan, stopped the hand of the international pharmaceutical companies and merchants.

Dr. Larijani, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, is the son of an ayatollah who is a cleric himself. He is an administrative, intelligent, and clear thinking politician and a self-sacrificing guard for the revolution.

Dr. Velayati, a sincere person, who during his nearly 12 years of service is one of the well-known and active figures of the region, who under the harshest conditions has obeyed the leader unquestioningly and pursued the policies of the religious guardian of the time in foreign policy and has, thank God, always been successful.

He added: For Dr. Hashemi-Golpeyegani, who is one of the well-known and active figures of the regime, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian and Hojjat ol-Eslam Shushtari, who are well-known religious scholars, I ask God for their success, and especially I ask God for the success of Dr. Hashemi-Golpeyegani, who heads the higher education centers, which are responsible for educating the future builders of the revolution.

The dear and revered brother, Engineer Zanganeh, who in his nearly 12 years of service has been a capable and sincere minister and one of the old combatants, and Mr. Forouzesh,

who is once again presented to head the Ministry of Construction Jihad, was one of the students following the line of the Imam. The production of chicken and eggs, which increased from 665,000 tons to more than 900,000 tons annually; the production of poultry meat and eggs, which increased from 260 million to 280 million; and the production of red meat, which increased from 570,000 to 625,000 tons annually, are among the activities of the jihad.

Kamal 'Abedizadeh, Supporting

In continuation, he said: The honorable ministers realize that the selections under them in the ministry must be among the supporters of the revolution, with strong belief, hard working, courageous, decisive, and unflattering. Management is the most important issue of the country.

He added: We do not need the entry of so many goods. By strengthening domestic industries and very serious control of quality, we must try to stop dependencies.

Referring to the grave responsibilities of the ministers, he said: The vital artery of the economy of the Islamic homeland must be entrusted to the self-sacrificers of the revolution. The issue of oil is also a serious one. Concerning Engineer Aqazadeh, I testify that he is an individual who is totally devoted to religion and the revolution, loaded with experience and strong, sincere management skills, who has no other thought but the victory of Islam. He is a constant and active presence in the oil markets. And increasing the foreign currency revenues of the country is another brilliant manifestation of the Ministry of Petroleum. The use of modern technology in the oil industry and in refining, and employing Iranian experts in this matter, and the growth of the work force is particularly unfolding. In regards to the responsibility of Engineer Gharazi, the speaker added: He is an old timer and has suffered torture.

He continued: The Energy Committee will vote decisively for the honorable ministers, Engineer Gharazi and Engineer Zanganeh, with a majority vote. Engineer Zanganeh is one of the children of the Construction Jihad who has had the highest success in dam building and control of waters and has had an acceptable growth in providing electrical energy.

He added: Mr. Forouzesh is a very good and oppressed person. Being oppressed is a bad thing, but he is a competent and innovative person.

Seyyed Mojtaba 'Erfani, Supporting

In the continuation of the afternoon session, Mr. 'Erfani said in support: Certainly, the Islamic officials in the second five years will follow precisely the directives of the grand leader, which is the essence of the wishes of the nation for the glory of Islamic Iran.

He pointed out: Our nation expects the government to offer the model of a suitable Islam and social justice, and this cannot be achieved except with spiritual rule in the society and the use and training of committed and sincere forces that in the past trials have brought the oppressors to their knees. In this arena, the whole nation must carefully and in obedience to the decrees of the grand leader, help the government and the officials with their experiences sincerely.

Commending the government and the president, he said: God willing, we shall help the government and the honorable ministers with our high votes for their decision making and support them. Addressing the ministers, he said: You should make the climate of the ministries and their task spiritual, and take care when choosing your colleagues so that they are committed and sincere.

Vahideh Ahmadi-Zadsarzy, Supporting

She said: The honorable deputies must note that the president has presented a Cabinet on the basis of his religious and legal duty in which there is no room for change. Most of them have been able to come out of the First Five-Year Plan proudly.

In continuation, he referred to the Ministries of Post, Telegraph and Telephone; Petroleum; Interior; Agriculture; Energy; and Mines. Praising the previous ministers, he said: Considering the emphasis of the leader in connection with social justice and welfare for the deprived and the oppressed and considering the role that cooperatives can play in connection with providing housing and goods needed by the people, the proper actions of Engineer Shafe'i in the Ministry of Cooperatives indicate the above-mentioned points. During his ministry more than 1,100 new cooperatives were established in 1371 [21 March 1992-21 March 1993].

In defending the minister of construction jihad, he said: Mr. Forouzesh is a young revolutionary and an administrator with a brilliant record. For years, he was a war commander on the front. Many abandoned the task and thought about education, futures, and acquiring degrees.

This is while he has abandoned the future for the sake of jihad and the war.

Maryam Behruzi, Opposing and Supporting

She said: The most important task of the Majles, which is directly connected with the fate of the people, is the selection of ministers, including supporting or opposing views, and appointing the Cabinet.

Referring to the slogan of "support for Hashemi" by the Fourth Majles, Ms. Behruzi said: The climate at the present is saturated with solidarity, cooperation, and unity, and as one of the central slogans of the majority of the deputies of the Fourth Majles has been support for Hashemi, the best and most logical support for Mr. Hashemi was given, and they offered their best expert opinion concerning the capability of the ministers of Mr. Hashemi.

She also added: Of course, this does not mean that I am satisfied with all the proposed ministers and give my vote of support to all of them.

While declaring her support for the remaining ministers, she described some of the programs of the new ministers of the Cabinet and announced her support for those programs.

Concerning the minister of Interior, she said: The Ministry of Interior is particularly important, because while providing order and security, it also provides a calm political climate in the country in order to create the necessary and suitable conditions for the activities of other organizations.

She considered possessing a public spirit, spiritual sincerity, diplomacy, organization, connection with the Friday

imams, and the administration of the law enforcement forces among the characteristics of the minister of interior and asked the deputies to help him carry out the tasks more strongly with their strong show of support for the new minister of interior.

In continuation, Maryam Behruzi defended some of the remaining ministers and said: Among the ministers about whom rumors can be repeated is Mr. Mahluji, against whom speeches have been made. I find it necessary to say a few words about him.

She added: The rumors that have been spread are so numerous that even those who made the rumors thought they were true. I have spent a great deal of time on research concerning these issues, and subsequently I have become certain of the baselessness of what has been said about him. Hence, I consider defending him a religious and revolutionary duty.

Concerning the waste and luxury by the minister of mines and metals, she said: I am certain that he lives in an apartment unit in a residential complex. Neither the building nor his living conditions have changed. Or in regards to what Mr. Kamran said about his summer villa, no such thing exists. And again some go and look at his glass building. I did; I saw it. It is a building that has been hit by a missile and repaired with beautiful wooden walls and a large number of personnel are housed in it. In this building, all the curtains furniture, etc. are Iranian-made, and the floor is Iranian stone, which can be an exhibition of ores.

She added: On the floor where Mr. Mahluji works, the only decoration that I saw is a Chinese silk cloth, which was presented as a gift to the ministry. This ministry is more simple than most ministries. She emphasized: None of what has been said against him is true.

Monireh Nowbakht, Opposing

She added: As a deputy who is in fact a spokesman of the people, on behalf of those whom I represent, I say that Islamic management did not exist in some of our ministries. My proof is that the people are dissatisfied about some of the ministers because of the appointments and dismissals that have taken place and do not consider those appointments and dismissals just.

She pointed out: It has been seen in the ministries that they have mostly appointed their relatives. This is not Islamic management. Ms. Nobakht referred to another case in this connection and said: When a minister is dealing with a Basiji young man who has recently married, because he thinks that the young man has made a report against the minister to a higher authority and exiles him as a punishment and a warning for him and others, this is far from Islamic management.

She explained: Lack of Islamic management made our people dissatisfied and ailing.

The deputy from Tehran emphasized the financial and Treasury misuse and said: We have contracts on which the Treasury has been spent, but the desired results have not been gained. This is, in fact, wasting the Treasury, wasting the nation's money, for which the related organization must be accountable.

She added: There have been cases when domestic use has been possible, but no value has been given them.

In this connection, she added: In the oil company, a training contract has been signed with a foreign company to train 300 people. This was within the capability of our own university, and there was no need for a foreign contract and use of the Treasury money.

Ms. Nowbakht emphasized: Acquiring a vote of confidence from the Majles should not mean that the weaknesses are ignored. Rather, the deputies emphasize the correction and elimination of these weaknesses.

Concerning the Ministry of Education, the deputy from Tehran said: Our people are waiting and expect religiously trained children who believe in the revolution and Islam to come out of these schools. See how successful the Ministry of Education has been in this regard. She added: In attracting and employing committed Hezbollah teachers, how successful has the Ministry of Education been? On the other hand, what size educational forces have we had who have been dismissed due to mismanagement and improper operation?

Stating that we believe the people must participate in education, she added: The present disorder in the Ministry of Education has caused the people not to participate in this ministry. And, what right of the Hezbollah nation has not been given them?

In response to the question posed by a morning newspaper, which said, "The Cabinet leaves; what Cabinet will come?" she said: God willing, the Cabinet that comes will be a self-sacrificing Cabinet. It must be a self-sacrificing Cabinet. In other words, considering the goals of the Hezbollah nation, devoid of all waste of economic necessities, and by emphasizing the spiritual and Islamic interests of our society, God willing, it should be able to serve.

Seyyed Mostakhar Kazemi, Supporting

On the same subject, he proposed: The honorable government Cabinet must meet at least once a year in a deprived area of the country, and they should go with their families to the gathering of the deprived people and come in contact with their problems first hand.

Mr. Kazemi then offered his support for the ministers of information; justice; foreign affairs; interior; heavy industries; commerce; education; jihad; petroleum; agriculture; post, telegraph and telephone; energy; cooperatives; labor; industries; roads and transport; defense; health and treatment; housing; and higher education and announced his support for their programs.

Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, Supporting

The next speaker was Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, the deputy from Nur and Mahmudabad, who referred to the ministers who were dismissed and said: Every one of the above-mentioned ministers were good and justifiable ministers, but the problems concerned those under them. Be careful not to have colleagues who could ruin your reputation.

Referring to the speech of Engineer Yahyavi, Nateq-Nuri said: The Hydromelin Company that he said had signed a contract with the petrochemical company, as soon as we realized that the contract was not in keeping with some

issues, we informed the minister, who immediately canceled it. The shortcoming is ours, not the above-mentioned ministry's.

Concerning the export of oil, he pointed out: The Majles said, We should export 2.7 million barrels of oil. It was the Majles that determined the price of oil. No matter how much we spoke to the Majles, it was not accepted. If there is problem in management, go to the area where there are problems.

He then mentioned the jihad combatants as the messengers of villages and said: The young men in the jihad everywhere transmitted the message of love and kindness and the start of construction in the villages. According to the statistics, which were collected in 1360 [21 Mar 1981-20 Mar 1982], 3 percent of the villages in the country had roads with technical specifications, 6 percent of the villages had electricity, and 13 percent had running water. Today, 30,000 km of roads with technical specifications, 16,000 villages with drinking water, 13,000 villages with electricity, and 7,200 villages with hygienic bathhouses have been built by the jihad.

He added: It is most unfair to question the brothers in the ministries that up to yesterday were importers and today are exporters. In other words, you used to import steel or you imported aluminum, but today, you export it. And then you say that you have weak management. Then, say that he is a lover of luxury. God, see how this gentleman lives and see if it is luxurious. If you went to his ministry and saw how the stones were used there, that is precisely management.

He emphasized: We have created such a climate that the president has to come here and say, This is how my family is, how my sister is, how my mother is, how my children are. Why do you question the officials of the country who work hard? Who do you want to be? Are you a supporter of stench? Do you want your ministry to stink? Let one ministry look like a ministry.

I apologize to the ministers. May this ministry [illegible] that they play with our reputation.

Mohsen Kuhkan, Opposing

Mr. Kuhkan, the deputy from Lenjan, spoke about some of the presented ministers and first said: The ministers are respected by us, and we respect each and every one of them. Only in accordance with the oath that we have taken and in accordance with the duty that the Constitution and the laws have conferred upon us, we must give our opinion. And then if we oppose a minister but the honorable Majles gives him a vote of confidence, we must support him wholeheartedly.

Opposing the nomination of Mr. Forozesh as the minister of construction jihad, he said: The Ministry of Construction Jihad was formed after the victory of the Islamic revolution, which is made up of self-sacrificing and active forces who displayed self-sacrifice during the period of sacred defense and whose services are not unknown to anyone. If we have any argument it is because if the administration of this ministry becomes stronger, this self-sacrificing unit will be more capable of doing its duty.

He announced the reasons for his opposition as follows:

1) Among the issues is that the examination and approval of the reduced organization of this ministry took two years.

[2] Failure to carry out consultation with experts of this institution who are committed and acceptable to experts.

He added: As soon as these dear ones heard about the seminar of the tribes, which was held last year in Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari, a number of the brothers, including three Majles deputies, contacted him and had some views to express. He said: What is the use of holding such a seminar for the tribes under these circumstances? He said: It must be investigated. A number of experts are assigned to investigate whether or not there is a need to hold this seminar. After the investigations, they say: On the whole, the scholarly and specialized level of the essays are not stronger than the essays presented at the Strategic Seminar for the Development of Tribal Life, which was held on 22 and 23 Esfand 1369 [13, 14 Mar 1391] in Shiraz. As a result we are not sure whether this conference will be successful, especially from an external viewpoint. This seminar, according to an expert of the Province of Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari, cost nearly 80 million tomans.

My question is, What was the use of this seminar? Let him answer this question.

3) Weakness in advancing the organization of jihad to reach its goals and the needed legal actions of the Construction Jihad. For example, not ratifying the implemental bylaws of the administrative and financial law of jihad ratified in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] by the concerned authorities such as the Cabinet, so that of the 13 needed bylaws, which were supposed to be prepared and ratified with one year according to Article 86, only three bylaws were prepared and ratified.

4) Failure to properly use the potential and active capability of the Construction Jihad.

5) Lack of ability for just distribution of the resources during the war by the jihad, so that we have a Provincial City Construction Jihad that, with the resources that it received through connections, is the contractor for some of the national projects in some provinces of the country, and alongside it we have the Construction Jihad [organization] that does not even have one piece of real building equipment.

In connection with the Plan, we believe that the reports that were presented do not have any foundation. Naturally, it requires proof, which these dear ones must answer.

He added: Some of the employees of the Ministry of Construction Jihad sent matters to the Majles. Our dear brother sent a response. We expected that instead of stating a series of generalities concerning the jihad and the self-sacrificers, he would have responded to those questions. The letter had pointed out that the Accounting Office had referred to dissolving the Central Council of the Construction Jihad. In the letter that was written, the verification of dissolving being wrong by the Accounting Offices is not true [as published]. I will read the letter of the assistant prosecutor to the Accounting Office.

Honorable Mr. Forozesh, Minister of Construction Jihad:

In examining and constant supervision of the executive organizations the results of the investigation are stated.

Paragraph 6. The dissolving of the Central Council of Jihad without regard for Article 106 of the Constitution and the

transfer of the legal duties of the Council (it is the violations that are referred to) that are stated in the letter of the Accounting Office are not true. This letter explicitly states it. In connection with the dissolving of the Central Council of Construction Jihad, Mr. Kalbkan said: The honorable minister of Construction Jihad dissolved the Central Council of Jihad last year by making use of his legal authority to dismiss its members one by one, the natural result of which is its dissolution. Here, there is a marginal question to which he will hopefully respond.

I ask, when we dismiss the five members of a five-member council with the honorable representative of the religious guardian beside it, the natural result is the dissolution of the council. And then, we give the authority to the planning council. Can this be the manner in which to deal with the representative of the religious guardian? God willing, he will respond to it.

The deputy of the people of Lenjan pointed out: The announced statistics and figures in interviews are different from what has been sent to us. A report that was sent to the Majles states that in the area of forests and pasture, extensive and serious planning has begun to revitalize and use natural resources, and forest planting operations have reached from 53,000 hectares [ha] in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to 90,000 ha in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993].

However, in an interview with RESALAT newspaper on Thursday, 17 Esfand [8 March], the minister said:

"During this year (1371), in order to stabilize the shifting sands throughout the country, 138,000 ha of saplings are being planted, which, compared to what is projected in the Plan, has increased by 14 percent." Is this interview correct or the report to the Majles? The brothers spoke about meat, and our dear brother, Mr. Nikfar, said that one of the proud acts of the Ministry of Construction Jihad is that in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] imported meat reached from 210,000 tons to 65,000 tons today. I say to him that it is not 210,000 tons, and it is the law of protection for domestic production of livestock ratified by the Majles that has set it at 170,000 tons. Note 2 of the law of protection of domestic production of livestock states: This policy (the policy mentioned in the single article) must be such that, by the end of the First Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the import of meat from abroad will be stopped. Let him answer whether or not meat imports will stop by the end of this year.

If the interview of the deputy minister of construction jihad in KEYHAN, 31/05/1369 [22 August 1990] is correct, which says, annually 600,000 tons of meat are produced domestically, then we will be able to export 150,000 tons, which we have in excess of consumption. How does the 900,000 tons that he stated conform to the single article, and what is this interview about?

Continuing, praising the efforts of the previous ministers who have been presented, Mr. Kalbkan referred to the nomination of Mr. Torkan as the minister of roads and transport and said: One of the characteristics of Mr. Sa'idikia was his modesty and valuing the Hezbollah elements in the Ministry of Roads and Transport. At that time, I was one of the people who had signed to interpellate him. At that time, too, I admitted this fact. If I oppose the going of Mr. Torkan to the Ministry of Roads and Transport, my worry is that the same fate that befell the Hezbollah people in the Ministry of Defense will befall the Ministry of Roads and Transport. One of his negative characteristics, which I hope he will correct if the Majles votes for him and he goes to the Ministry of Roads and Transport, is not using the consultative views of the people under him, because of his particular nature.

Referring to the speech of the president concerning Mr. Torkan not being in the Ministry of Defense, he said: In the Ministry of Defense, a large number of religious Hezbollah people were in the industries. After the coming to power of Mr. Torkan in that ministry, there was no sign left of these Hezbollah people. You might bring up the issue of merging, but tell me, were the conditions proper for them to stay or were a large number of them absorbed by the railroads or ministries?

Opposing the nomination as the minister of economic affairs and finance, Mr. Kalbkan said: The whole world gives the necessary and sufficient credit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian people, because they know we are a rich country with people who work hard and the rule of Islamic culture in their country is a good guarantee, because due to our beliefs, we are steadfast in all of our obligations. I am saying this so that if there are ears that do not belong to us and hear this, they would not try to take advantage. But could the existing situation not be proof of the weakness of the management of the monetary and banking system of the country? If he gets the vote from the honorable Majles, I insist that he make use of committed experts who believe with their whole being in the directives of the grand leader. We expect him to explain the position of social justice and attending to the deprived in the programs that he has for the monetary system of the country.

He said:

Except for two ministers, I will vote for the ministers of the Cabinet of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Reza 'Abdollahi, Opposing

Reza 'Abdollahi, the deputy from Naishvahan, was another speaker in the open session yesterday, criticizing the operations of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone. He mentioned the satellite project of this ministry and said: This project, in the words of Mr. Dorri, requires $42 million and 540 million tomans in funds, and if we do not go through with it, we shall lose the circuits that are in contact with Iran and will be given to other countries, such as Iraq and Israel. Of course, this issue concerns 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985].

Also, Mr. Dorri said that this project is different from leasing the satellite for the Voice and Vision.

He added: Engineer Gharazi also said if the Majles and the government help and we have this project ratified, we will need $280 million. The total cost of the project is 20 billion rials[Rls], and, thank God, considering that the communications company has become self-sufficient, we will provide it from our own resources.

Also, in regards to the advantages of the above-mentioned project, Mr. Gharazi has said that if we make some progress

in this project, in addition to being able to give services to universities, it can also be used in geology.

The deputy from Mahneshan added: Prior to the above-mentioned open session, on 19/08/1364 [10 Nov 1985], a letter was sent to Engineer Musavi with the signatures of Engineer Gharazi and Seyyed Mostafa Safavi. It said that if we did not pursue this communications satellite project, the countries that would take our place would be those like Pakistan and the Soviet Union [as published].

He added: I ask, how is it that in the prime minister's report the countries that would replace us are Pakistan and the Soviet Union [as published], and it changes for the deputies in the Majles to Iraq and Israel? Moreover, the communications satellite, in addition to what it can do in terms of communications, can do other things, such as weather forecasting and surveillance of military transports. Our second question is, How can the communications satellite do these tasks?

Engineer Gharazi, was the remote testing your work in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]? If these tasks are possible with a communications satellite, I will take back all I said.

Referring to the $650 million cost of a satellite launch, which has been stated in the letter, Mr. 'Abdollahi said: This is while in the Majles and the Planning and Budget Committee the cost was mentioned to be $42 million, and in the open session, $280 million.

What the experts say is that the above-mentioned project will require $1 billion to $1.5 billion in foreign currency. The letter that was distributed in the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Committee stated that $650 million in foreign currency, and other systems were announced to require $1,295,000,000. This was in order to say that the satellite was more economical, in order to pacify us.

He also added: In another letter, which was distributed in the next session, the cost of the satellite is $350 million, and the figure for other systems $557 million. In other words, the figure is reduced by more than $700 million.

Mr. Mo'ezzi, the chairman of the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Committee, wrote a letter on 13/08/1369 [4 Nov 1990] stating that a maximum of $350 million shall be placed at the disposal of the communications company to complete the independent satellite project. If the foreign currency needed to fully operate the capacity of the satellite is more than the above-mentioned figure, it is by no means economical.

In continuation, referring to the recent report of Engineer Gharazi, the deputy from Mahneshan said: A comparison is made in this report. The question is, can we actually be compared in terms of per capita income with the countries that were referred to? When you give the figures and statistics, give us the rial figures as well. How is it that during the time of Engineer Nabavi, who is indirectly questioned here, the communications company was operated on an average of Rls50 billion, but in the Five-Year Plan, our communications company has received more than Rls2,500 billion? In the Plan law, the funds that were established for the communications company were Rls896,322 million. When this figure is increased to Rls2,500 billion and its annual average becomes Rls500 billion, I must say, sir, is it fair for the distribution of our telephones to have also a ratio of 10 to one?

If in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], during the administration of Engineer Nabavi, 116,000 telephones were distributed, you must have distributed more than 1.1 million telephones. Considering the advancement in technology and science, the cost of communication and electronics has come down.

He continued: Mr. Gharazi states in his report 1.3 million projected telephones. By the end of Tir [22 July], 1.2 million had been put into operation, which is 99 percent of the Plan.

I ask, when in the Economic Council, in the session on 19/06/69 [10 September], your 1.3 million telephones increased to 2.5 million, and your 109 billion tomans to 250 billion tomans, why did you not tell the Majles that your plan is 2.5 million telephones? Hence, on this basis your output is under 50 percent. Why do you not tell the people about these things? Is this not hiding the truth and the facts from the Majles, which has helped the government so much? Engineer Gharazi, for how much do you purchase a fax? How much is a fax machine sold for in our country, and what is its price on the world market? If we have ourselves opened the door for selling at high prices, how can we expect the bazaar and the merchants to sell at the right price? Why do you sell a fax machine that you buy at the government price for more than 4,000,000 tomans? And later, when the people do not buy it, you reduce it to 320,000 tomans and again to 187,000 tomans? Should we impose whatever we can? Why should we ruin the reputation of the government so that the people say the government hikes the price?

Why let the people buy these fax machines at the open foreign currency rate and then tell them to pay 50,000 tomans in fees and a 2,000 toman subscription fee? If I am paying a subscription fee for my telephone line, why should I pay another fee for the same thing?

It is interesting if Engineer Zangeneh were to do the same and tell the people that in order to provide the cash flow, when you use your television, iron, etc., you must pay separate fees.

In conclusion, he said: Our minister must be a mirror to others. When in KEYHAN, 13/13/1369 [4 March 1991], you announce that this year you distributed 300,000 telephones whereas your total distribution for that year was 170,000 telephones [as published].

I say, we do not know, the government does not know, the Majles does not know either. Engineer [Gharazi], do the communications experts not know either? Do their families not know it?

In connection with a report, which was presented about the satellite to the grand leader, and he ordered it to be stopped, unfortunately, some of the experts and managers were dismissed, and this was reported to the grand leader. The director of his honor's office asks, Did they treat them in this way? If such is the case, have the gentlemen be reinstated. Unfortunately, this has not been done yet.

Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, Opposing

The next opponent was Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, the deputy from Tehran. Pointing out that the oil industry is the basis of our economy, he said: The oil industry, with an

80-year history, has a large number of committed experts in various specialized fields. Hence, it is in a special position in terms of a specialized work force. Under these circumstances, we must be an exporter of science, technology, and petroleum services as well as manpower.

Referring to the work of Mr. Aqazadeh in the Ministry of Petroleum, he said: First, I must make a comparison between what has been done and what has been ratified.

Unfortunately, the protected production of oil during the period of 1368-1371 [21 March 1989-20 March 1993] was less than the projection. This is why it has received more foreign currency than was in the Plan. What is meant by protected production is that, at the first stage of operation, we inject natural gas into the well in order to prevent the oil resources from being wasted. This is while from the oil reservoirs of Aghajani, so far 5 billion barrels of oil have been wasted due to the failure to inject.

In another part of his speech, he said: In a letter to the president, Mr. Aqazadeh suggested that if he is given $3 billion more than the Plan calls for, by the end of the First Plan, he will have $15 billion in surplus revenues. He takes this $3 billion, but the result is not even at the level of the previous Plan. In 1369, oil revenues were 34 percent more, which was not because of your projection. It was because of the invasion of the Allies on Iraq.

In 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], 20 to 30 percent less than the Plan was gained in revenues. The question is: What about your projection of revenues and also the suggestion that you gave to the president to get an additional $3 billion? How do you justify the contradiction?

He added: The price of oil that you presented for 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] was $18.4 per barrel, and for 1371 [21 March 1991-20 March 1993] it was $19.8. But what materialized was $16.1 for 1370 and $15-18 for 1371. You projected the revenues from oil in the Plan to be $21 billion, whereas $14.9 billion materialized. In other words, you took an additional $3 billion and were behind the projections of the Plan. How do you justify it?

Referring to the oil policy of Iran in OPEC, he said: Unfortunately, I must say that during the administration of Mr. Aqazadeh, we have lost our position in OPEC. In practice, he followed the just market share, which is the policy of Saudi Arabia. But every time he returned from an OPEC meeting, in interviews he would say that the results were satisfactory. But the result was for us to sell more oil and have less revenues. He said: Dear ones, even if there is a 1-dollar change in the price of oil, we have a change of $1 billion per year in revenues.

Referring to the mechanism of the projection of supply and the price of oil, he said: In the Economic and Finance Committee, we invited Mr. Aqazadeh to come along with experts to see what were their projections for the price of oil. The result was that the basis of the work of this dear group is a few American establishments who make projections on the basis of the global development and growth of energy consumption, and then this becomes the basis for calculation for all countries, including ours!

He added: After that American establishment says how much oil they need for next year at what price, then the share of OPEC is specified. And in OPEC, after Saudi Arabia, it is our turn.

In other words, we are at the end of the line. Should Mr. Aqazadeh not have, during these eight years, placed some importance on this matter so that we gain our real position, so that we would not be at the end of the line determined by the American establishments?

Referring to the protest of some oil experts to Mr. Aqazadeh concerning the projection of revenues, Engineer Nabavi said: He had said that there are the policies of the regime, and this is the strategy of the regime. This is an insult to the experts. You made the suggestion and on the basis of your expertise the Majles or the government ratified it. Now, when it comes out wrong, you want to blame it on the regime and the officials of the regime.

Concerning the international oil affairs, he said: Instead of our oil customers being traditional customers and oil refineries, oil is placed at the disposal of dealers, who generally have a bad history or sell to countries with a bad reputation, which will ruin the reputation of our country.

Referring to the sales offices of the Ministry of Petroleum in London, Rotterdam, Canada, Singapore, and so on, he said: I do not know how this can be economically justified for us to have so many offices and have no results.

Referring to the secondary sale company of Iranian oil in London (NIPU), Mr. Nabavi said: Crude oil is sold at a discount to (NIPU), which sells to its customers. What happens to the discount that is given to (NIPU) has it ever been audited? The issue of companies was supposed to come to the Majles, which it has not yet. Unfortunately, the offices of companies, both private and government, are created outside the authority for auditing. Examples are dozens of companies that have been created in the Construction Jihad. The revenues of these companies are not audited.

Referring to the issue of natural gas, he said: Unfortunately, the natural gas outreach networks are developing rapidly, but there is no news of production of natural gas. Why do you bury the capital investments of the country in foreign currency and rials from underground? At the present, there are 400,000 connections in the country without natural gas. Some of the deputies were promised that if they give their votes, natural gas will be given to their cities rapidly. What natural gas? A report indicates that in the Second Plan, some of the power plants will stop because of lack of natural gas. Natural gas projects, such as the second phase of Kangan Refinery, are behind schedule. Hence, the balance of production and consumption is negative.

He said: Please, he should explain why in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1993] we had a critical shortage of liquid gas? Also he should explain why he injected polluted gas into the Tehran 5,000-km network? It is said that this network has been badly damaged and its useful life reduced.

Why have the F-1 and F-2 compressors for the natural gas transmission of Kangan, for which you received the funds, started operation, and instead of 80 million [m^3] of gas in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], we shall have a maximum of 55 million m^3 of natural gas?

Mr. Aqazadeh, you were not successful in collecting and preventing the burning of natural gas. About $33 billion (in terms of its equivalent to oil at $16 per barrel) has been burnt. According to the Plan, this was supposed to be collected and used, but, unfortunately, it has just been burnt in the air. Why?

He added: Concerning the agreement of the natural gas reservoir of Park-e Jonubi, with the Russian consortium and two Italian and Japanese companies, $1.71 billion has been carried out without bidding. How do you explain this?

Referring to the petrochemical industry, he said: Up to the year 2000, the oil giants with the investments that they have made will saturate the market. Now, what is the justification for these petrochemical investments?

After five years since the war, the Razi Petrochemical Company operates at 50 percent, Abadan at 6 percent, and Farabi at 30-percent capacity.

Referring to the tragic situation of the work force in the oil industry, he said: The work force has reached from 68,000 people, with a production of 6 million barrels per day [BPD], to 125,000 people with 4 million BPD.

He said: The buildings of the oil company in Tehran have increased from 15 to 25 buildings, and the number of cars from 3,000 to 12,000 units. Now, with this increase in manpower and volume of buildings, you bring in the new labor force without any experience and in these units place the experienced, older people under their supervision so that the former make plans for the latter.

This problem has caused absolute despair and hopelessness at the larger expertise level of the oil company, and these pamphlets that have come to the Majles are from these experts.

Mr. Nabavi added: Many of the experts have either been isolated or not made use of or are sitting at home and receiving salaries. When in the National Natural Gas Company the director general changes five times (in less than two years), there is no opportunity for planning. The building engineering manager was changed three times, the refinery manager three times, the exploration manager four times, the international manager four times, the trade manager four times, and the manager of oil-rich regions five times. Are all these changes in the management and lack of stability not the result of disorder in his administration!

He protested the distribution of 100 Peugeots among the general managers and deputy ministers of the Ministry of Petroleum and in another part of his speech said: The situation of manpower is such that in the Arak Refinery, instead of absorbing 20 percent experienced forces, only 9 percent have been absorbed.

He also said: Why, by employing his relatives and other officials in the Ministry of Petroleum, does Mr. Aqazadeh create causes for the accusation of officials? Why do you appoint a 30-year-old inexperienced young man as a director, despite all the rumors? Why do you not make use of domestic specialists who are expert and sufficiently capable, and why do you have foreigners do what can be done by native people?

He also referred to the operation of Arak Refinery and said: The construction of the refinery is not completed, but because the honorable minister of petroleum insists on starting the operations at this time, it was inaugurated as a show. Now this refinery has started operation at a lower capacity.

Referring to the weakness of management at the present time in the Ministry of Petroleum, Engineer Nabavi said: Since the time Mr. Aqazadeh took charge, contrary to Article 41 of the Charter, he dissolved the Supreme Inspection Committee and said that the auditing organization is sufficient. Hence, the accounts of companies are not audited, and it is not clear how the projects are performed, and they cannot be evaluated.

Referring to the embezzlement that occurred in connection with the difference in the price of the sale of airplane fuel and ship fuel, he said: The file for this embezzlement is available at the Article 90 [Committee].

In conclusion, Mr. Nabavi said: If Mr. Aqazadeh volunteers to allow a more capable person to come there, I think we will be able to revitalize this important economic base of the country and prevent its further decay.

Mahmud Astaneh, Opposing

In regards to the ministers presented by the president, he said: I request of the honorable ministers of industries, heavy industries, mines and metals, and economic affairs and finance that, considering the ratification of the Cabinet ministers concerning the transfer of industrial and production companies and units to nongovernmental sectors, they respond to the following:

1) Considering the emphasis of the ratification on 19/03/70 [9 June 1991] concerning giving priority to units through the stock market, why do some of the ministers insist on determining the method of transfer by themselves, and why in most cases is the method of direct negotiations with purchasers not chosen and the units sold without informing the public?

2) Considering Article 42 of the Constitution, according to which all large industries, parent industries, and large mines must be at the disposal of the government in the form of general ownership, the honorable ministers of heavy industries and mines and metals should explain on what basis the decision or measures by the ministries concerning the sale of a number of large industries and mines, such as Iran-Khodrow, Ahvaz Pipes, Khavar Company, the coal mines and ores, especially the Alborz and Central Coal Company and the Central Iranian Iron Ore Company, and breaking some of the companies into large mines or taking bills to the Cabinet that with a few ratifications will allow the sale of hundreds of basic companies is correct.

3) What is the reason for the delay in the transfer of 33 percent of the workers' shares? While every day in various ways 67 percent of the shares of the production units are transferred to nongovernmental sectors, with the passage of so much time, apparently no one wants to deal with this problem.

He continued: I ask the honorable ministers of energy; petroleum; and post, telegraph and telephone to give the necessary response to these issues. One of the great goals of the Islamic revolution is independence and self-reliance. Explain, in the course of the past four years, out of the total

number of agreements signed concerning building, installation and starting operations of power plants, refineries, petrochemical units, communication needs, etc., what percentage has been by domestic companies and what percentage foreign companies? Moreover, what is your program for the use of domestic industries and the capability of the country in the future?

Mr. Astaneh continued: I ask Mr. Besharati to respond to the following, considering the magnitude of the tasks in the Ministry of Interior.

Since the Constitution places a great deal of emphasis on the role of the people in the administration of the affairs of the country, and considering Article 100 of the Constitution, what is your opinion as a candidate for the Ministry of Interior in regards to the implementation of Articles 7, 100, 101, 102, 103, and 106 of the Constitution?

Considering the increasing expenses of nonprofit and model schools and the classification of education, I ask Dr. Najafi, the honorable minister of education, about his specific program concerning education in villages, particularly the deprived villages.

I request of Dr. Hashemi, considering the preservation of the values of the revolution in the scientific centers and higher education institutions, whether he will follow the programs of Dr. Mo'in during his ministry in the selection of committed directors?

Jahanshah Saddiq, Opposing

He said: Fifteen years have passed in the blessed life of the revolution, and some of our ministers and officials still are not familiar with many parts of our country. He pointed out: Some of the deprived regions and provinces have potential resources, but no investment is made in them, and they are used for the benefit of other regions.

He asked: From the Lorestan mines, what development has so far been carried out for the province itself? And considering the national oil wealth and other mines in the south of our country, what uses have been made by those areas?

Mr. Saddiq pointed out: We have many resources and forces, but, unfortunately, there has been negligence in investments.

He pointed out: In the Lorestan region, there are one or two factories that offer no economic benefit for the regions, only pollution. So, in the course of our service, we must shout for four years that pollution needs to be eliminated, to which, unfortunately, no attention is paid.

'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Opposing

'Abbas 'Ali Zali, the deputy from Karaj, was the last opposing deputy, who posed some questions about the operations of some ministries and asked for explanations by the candidates for these ministries.

Addressing Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he said: Considering the creation of a single foreign currency and the increase in the financial burden of the government organizations, what decisions have been made to administer these organizations?

The deputy from Karaj also asked the minister of economic affairs and finance about the side effects of the implementation of the policy of creating a single foreign currency rate and the pressure on the low-income strata.

He then referred to the negative effects of the increase of imports over national production and asked about Mr. Al-e Eshaq's program in this area.

In another part of his speech, Zali asked Mr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, the candidate for the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, concerning solutions to the problems of students, desirable use of all academic forces, and keeping alive the climate of the universities.

The deputy from Karaj in continuation asked about the programs of the minister of labor for the employment of the unemployed workers; the minister of post, telegraph and telephone about the telephone disruptions; and the minister of agriculture concerning the establishment of conversion industries for agricultural products.

He announced that his position regarding his vote for the above-mentioned ministers would depend on their responses to the questions posed.

Speech of Engineer Torkan, Nominee for the Ministry of Roads and Transport

Engineer Torkan, the nominee for the Ministry of Roads and Transport and the former minister of defense and armed forces logistics, said, in a speech in reference to the speech of Mr. Kuhkan, that the information that has been given to him, because it was not said personally what it is about, is, briefly, incorrect. In 1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90] when the merging of the two ministries of the Guard Corps and Defense took place, the managers who work in the defense industries belonging to the former Ministry of Defense are almost all those that I personally appointed during the tenure of "Sased" [as published] and their average period of service in that position.

He added: Those who have positions in the industries of the Guard Corps are generally managers who were appointed during the Ministry of Guard Corps by Mr. Shamkhani and Mr. Rafiqdust, and because they were competent people, there was no need to change them. Hence, if Mr. Kuhkan has special changes in mind, I would like him to say, so I can explain. Of course, I should say that a number of people in the former Ministry of Guard Corps, which is now merged in the ministry, are not there and had left before I came.

Engineer Torkan continued: In the Ministry of Guard Corps, before I came, a few days earlier, the minister of the Guard Corps and the general commander of the Guard Corps agreed to transfer all the industries of the Guard Corps to the command, and two days prior to my appointment, in a directive, all the factories took down their self-sufficiency industries signs and replaced them with the self-suffering jihad of the Guard Corps.

Of course, there were honorable individuals in the ministerial headquarters of the Guard Corps who did not stay on after my arrival. For this reason, I made use of the good personnel of the Ministry of Defense and the good personnel of the Ministry of Guard Corps.

In accordance with the directive of the grand leader, steps were taken to ensure that a balance between the military and

Guard Corps personnel be retained. Always during these four and a half years, half of my deputies were military and the other half regarding the Guard Corps. Now, too, three of the administrative, financial, and plan and programs are military, and the engineering, logistics, and Majles affairs deputies are from the Guard Corps. The Guard Corps deputies were made responsible for choosing their military replacement, and the military personnel the opposite.

He then pointed out: I will certainly evaluate all the directors of the Ministry of Roads and Transport, and afterwards those who need to will be changed. Hence, the abovementioned issue does not mean that I will present here a guaranteed check not to change anything in the Ministry of Roads and Transport. I consider Mr. Sa'idikia in terms of specialization higher than myself, and in terms of religiousness and ethics, I consider him a model. If he was criticized, certainly, he did not have strong colleagues.

Speech of Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, Nominee of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education

Concerning cultural and political issues raised by the deputies, he said: The ministry in this regard has the responsibility, even though in this area it does not have appropriate authority, with regard to the educational and research issues of the universities. It is hoped that with the help of the related organizations, such as the Majles, the representatives of the leader, and student organizations, and coordination with them, this problem will be resolved.

He added: University, political, and student crises are more likely to occur than educational research crises.

Concerning the dismissal and appointment of directors, he said: Concerning management, important basic requirements and several scholarly requirements have been discussed, and it is important to us that these precepts be implemented well.

Stating that he will avoid selections that despite his determination will make him dependent and bound, he added: In the implementation of the regulations that I must implement, one part is that I receive the suggestions from various places, examine them, and I make use of this authority to make the best choices within the framework of the standards.

He pointed out: This choice of the best must be seen in both its religious and revolutionary direction and its scholarly and research dimensions, and all must be seen together.

In regards to a lack of enthusiasm and joy in the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani said: In regards to the issue of bringing the universities out of the silence of political action that appears to be seen, with the proper implementation of the ratification of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, it can be achieved.

In regards to the extracurricular projects of the universities, he said: In this connection, we have offices of the representatives of the leader, which can in accordance with their authority help a great deal. The programs have started in this area, and it is hoped that work in this area is strengthened and advances.

He added: Of course, in the ministry, too, with the strengths of the ministry and the universities under the title of cultural-social consultation, we shall reach proper results.

He pointed out: The existing potential must be properly used.

He emphasized: The administration regulations in the universities must be implemented as ratified. For one part to be implemented and another part not to be implemented causes problems, and I am quite certain that these regulations have not been fully implemented, which would contribute to the dynamism of the political and cultural dimensions in rectifying the weak points.

Concerning the training of university forces, Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani said: Training must be towards the goals of the revolution and in conformity with our needs. But this requires a proper implementation method. Concerning applied science higher education, he said: With the secondary course of higher education, which contrary to the first course—of which the main center passes through the universities, and if there is cooperation with the production and service centers, it is secondary—the policy of this training should be based on passing through the production and service centers, and the universities should assist this policy.

He added: This policy can create coherent adjustment for a fundamental change in the educational system.

Concerning the quota of combatants, Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani pointed out: In this regard we have a law, and my own personal opinion is that we should implement the law as best we can.

He admitted that the implementation of this law has certain shortcomings and added: We were not supposed to bring our dear combatants to the universities in this manner. In practice, on the one hand, we want to give them their rights. On the other hand, we place them in a position of comparison and contrast with people who have not spent time on the front and have not worked.

He added: In this regard, it was decided that the focus must be placed on strengthening their academic ability, which has not been implemented correctly. Consequently, their conditional acceptance in some universities has reached crisis proportions.

He emphasized: The strengthening of the academic ability of the combatants must be taken more seriously.

He pointed out: It was projected that in the universities, too, these dear ones would be provided with resources to bring them up to that level before they must be compared and compete with others.

Concerning the Free Islamic University, Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani said: The Free Islamic University is a reality, and in connection with this reality, both the Majles and the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution have certain ratifications that must be implemented.

He emphasized: Such a deficiency must not occur, and the law must be implemented.

Speech of Dr. Kalantari, Nominee for the Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. 'Isa Kalantari said: Fortunately or unfortunately, I took over the Ministry of Agriculture from Mr. Zali. And he was both my teacher and our director at the Ministry of Agriculture. He was one of those teachers who does not keep the latest technique to himself. I have been asked several questions as to the executive methods of the sector, and I have to compare myself to him.

He added: Dr. Zali knows that all the statements of the late Imam during his leadership occurred during his leadership in the agricultural sector. He was for several years the deputy minister and several years minister. At the time, certain actions seemed correct, which needed to be done, but were not done. We could never implement the results of our research.

He added: The 30 to 40 years of research data, which were in the research institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture, was accumulated without being analyzed. An example are the independent projects. The only thing that we did in regards to wheat was to implement the results of the research. All the research that we did for instance concerning wheat and beets belonged to those studies, which were done from 1340 [21 March 1961-20 March 1962] to 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

Referring to the implemental methods, the minister of agriculture said: Mr. Zali knows himself, because he asked about water and soil, that we had a Central Office of Agricultural Engineering, which was in charge of water and soil, the capacity of which until that time was under 200,000 ha, because it was a 100-percent administrative institution. We changed this organization, reduced its personnel, and created regional water and soil companies. As he said himself, they handled 17 billion tomans in water and soil this year in addition to 30 billion tomans from the banking system. We reduced the administrative personnel, which reduced the burden of the government, and the agricultural engineering personnel started to work in the regional water and soil companies, in which they are becoming shareholders in order to be separated from the government.

He said: Unfortunately, in the agricultural sector, contrary to the industrial, technical, and road building sectors, we did not have strong contractors.

Referring to the measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture to achieve social justice, Dr. Kalantari said that when agriculture produced a product, at times it sold well and at other times not. The first thing that was done with the help of the Majles was that we offered the proposal for the guaranteed purchase of agricultural products, and it was ratified. This was the best protection for farmers. For example, one year, the price of potatoes would be so low that even the farmer would pay to empty his warehouse, and the next year it would be 50 tomans per kg, and the profits would line the pockets of the dealers.

He said: What does rural management have to do with me? As the minister of agriculture, I act within the framework of my duties. I am responsible for increasing production, for fundamental water and soil operations, and for a series of support tasks. The village is a part of the organizational composition of the country, of which the management must be elsewhere.

He added: In regards to organization, the government has decided to have two ministries in the agricultural sector. We must separate the duties of each organization. We have come to the conclusion that, because of the expansive dimensions of the work, which includes perhaps 45 percent of the national population, who are working in the agricultural sector and are the most deprived stratum of the society, the president correctly believes that one ministry alone cannot be the implementor. But, personally, I do not agree with the existing separation.

The minister of agriculture pointed out: We have tasks in which we are behind 200 to 300 years. We started the most primitive tasks four years ago. In terms of subsidized support, the world now provides up $300 billion to $400 billion in subsidies annually for the export of agricultural products. Thank God, it will stop in the year 2000. You give us funds... When we get to the issue of funds, the Plan and Budget Organization cuts some, and the Planning and Budget Committee cuts another part. Agriculture requires investment.

Mr. Kalantari pointed out: One of our problems is that our rural industries have not grown.

He added: The backwardness cannot be made up for in two or three years. Investments in food industries should have been made 40 to 50 years ago and are now being made.

Addressing Mr. Zali, he said: In regards to authority, all the authority of the minister of agriculture has been conferred on the provinces, which, in terms of implementation, will become stronger. The role of Tehran is merely that of supervision, planning, policymaking, and coordination.

Stating that the best use of resources is being made, he said: All the investments in fundamental affairs may have had an effect on a production increase of at most 10 to 15 percent. More than 85 percent has been due to better use of resources.

In connection with the guaranteed purchase of agricultural products, he said: We try to suggest prices for the guaranteed purchase of agricultural products on the basis of Majles ratifications. We suggest the prices, the honorable Economic Council approves some of them and does not approve the rest. I, too, know that this year the beet farmers and cotton growers are complaining.

On the Margins of the Majles

Mr. Daneshmonfared, a member of the Petroleum Affairs Committee of the Majles, while the ministers were being examined, said concerning the minister of petroleum: The discussion sessions in the Petroleum Affairs Committee were regularly held in the presence of a number of deputies in a professional manner, and the honorable minister of petroleum and the deputy ministers responded to most of the questions in a logical and acceptable manner by presenting numbers, figures, and documents, and on the whole the Petroleum Affairs Committee decided to vote positively for him.

But before long, Mr. Yahyavi, the chairman of the above-mentioned committee, came to the podium and spoke in opposition to the minister of petroleum.

The chairman of the Petroleum Affairs Committee said: In the agreement that has been signed between the Razi Petrochemical Complex and the Hydromelin Company of Norway, as claimed by the expert brothers, first, the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been ignored; second, the work outlined in the agreement could be done by Iranian experts.

In the examination and negotiations concerning the ministers yesterday afternoon, Ms. Maryam Behruzi, criticizing the excessive praise of the deputies for some of the ministers, said: So far, there has been a lot of unnecessary singing of praises. Later, we will have to be accountable to the people, and tomorrow, if we want to ask questions, will the people not say, "You defended the ministers so much that even they began to believe that they were were very good."

This sentence by Ms. Behruzi was endorsed by a significant number of deputies, who said in unison, "Bravo."

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, addressing Ms. Behruzi, said: This one minute that you talked, was it ultimately in support or in opposition?

She responded: Write whatever you think best.

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93LA0217A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
16 Aug 93 pp 1, 16

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles followed the examination of the new proposed Cabinet today as well. The first speaker was Mr. Yusefpur, the deputy from Ardabil, as an opponent.

According to a report by our correspondent, he first referred to the members of the new Cabinet and said: I will vote positively for all the ministers, except for the minister of petroleum and the minister of construction jihad. Referring to the work of the minister of construction jihad, he said: No institution has as many technical machines as the [Ministry of] Construction Jihad. However, the average work day of a bulldozer is 2.7 hours and a grader 2.8 hours. In Western Azarbaijan, they were bulldozing one hour a day. In Esfahan, it is three hours, in Gilan two hours. Should a bulldozer that is worth 10-20 million be used only a couple of hours a day? [sentence as published] This shows that the best use is not made of machinery. This is according to reports by the Construction Jihad itself. In regards to supervision, he said: Supervision over the work of managers is necessary. There are instances that show that no supervision exists.

1) The purchase of 800 secondhand trailers from the United States about three years ago by the Construction Jihad through a dealer. Two of the managers go to the United States to buy the secondhand trailers. They go to the U.S. Embassy in Germany and, after getting visas, go to Chicago to inspect the equipment. After the equipment arrives in Iran, it becomes clear that the tires are not suitable for Iranian roads. The wheels are too small and the tires too wide, and it is necessary to order parts to make them usable. After several months, the parts arrive in Iran. The repair shops of the Construction Jihad in several parts of the country are put in charge of rebuilding this equipment, and so far they have not succeeded in repairing them.

He said: Since no assessment concerning the need for 800 trailers and this kind of equipment in the Construction Jihad has been made, why was this purchase made? In this regard, no warrantee was obtained from the seller. He said: The Accounting Office report states that the price was accepted without investigation and verification of the price, and no bidding there was done. Article 709 of the General Accounting Law was not observed.

In another part of his speech, Yusefpur, referring to the company that the [Ministry of Construction] Jihad has established in Dubayy, said: This company has had no audits done by the [Ministry of Construction] Jihad. Should the financial resources of this company not be deposited in the Treasury? The question is, What are the accounts of this company during the three to four years it has been abroad? This company was established for procurement for the [Ministry of Construction] Jihad but has engaged in trade. He also said: In a rotten fish transaction, the country suffered a $2.7 million loss.

Then Mr. Yusefpur read the letter of protest of the Central Bank to the Construction Jihad concerning the foreign currency accounts abroad.

Yusefpur also said, concerning the reform of the administrative and work forces of the Construction Jihad: Indeed, Mr. Forouzesh should tell us how well they have been able to organize, modify the work force, and make better use of the Hezbollah forces.

Concerning manpower planning, he said: The salaries of 31.44 percent of the Jihad forces are paid through channels outside the Jihad.

Concerning the situation of the vehicles of the Jihad, he said: Statistics show that every member of the Jihad receives a car. I do not think there are so many machinery resources in any other organization.

Mokhtari, from Najafabad, was the second speaker of the Majles this morning. He pointed out that positions and status do not stay very long and said: If these positions were to last, you would not get them today. The dear ministers, God willing, will get a vote of confidence, and I hope we meet them in the Majles and not just once every six months.

He added: If the Majles deputies abandon their support for the government for one moment, the government will not be accountable for anything. Our constituents never ask: What happened to the tax law in the Majles? They ask, How did the minister of energy work? What did the minister of petroleum do? What services did the minister of communications render? We cannot say these questions do not concern us, because supervision is the duty of the Majles. He added: No one has any doubt that the ministers who are chosen are among the good people, because the ones selected have passed through the presidential filter. As the grand leader said, they will also go through the filter of the Majles. Would you then expect, God forbid, that they would turn out to be unruly individuals? The government starts with a minister and extends to the employee who sweeps.

Mokhtari then, addressing the ministers, said: In choosing your deputies, your actions are certainly less scrutinizing

than those of the Majles, because these filters do not exist. I give you the vote of thrust of 300,000 people. But sometimes, there is no care taken in choosing deputies. A powerful minister is one who obeys the law.

Zare'i-Qanavati, the deputy from Behbahan, spoke in opposition and said: What we want to vote for is how to achieve the goals of the revolution. What are the practical proposals for the plans? I consider it weak in terms of plans. What are we voting for, so that tomorrow we will be able to evaluate whether or not that minister achieved the goals of the plan? He then said: Most of our conflicts with the ministers and the reminders that we give concern the subordinates of the ministers. We have no conflicts with the ministers, personally. We must know what kinds of people the ministers want to work with. At least specify the criteria for selection, which we, unfortunately, do not see anywhere.

The deputy from Behbahan then added: In the practical programs of the government, the procedures of social justice and public welfare must be included, so that our deprived and oppressed people who have preserved the revolution benefit from the investments. In reality, the people are very upset about high prices and inflation.

In conclusion, he said: There are conflicts between the Hezbollah forces and the officials in the ministries. The officials and the ministers must figure out why these conflicts have been created. We must keep the Hezbollah forces and give them hope.

The next speaker was Mr. Kamyar, the deputy from Urmia. In opposition to the minister of industries, he said: He appointed a general manager to the Urmia Cement Factory, who had been dismissed from the Pakdis Factory of Urmia by the Foundation of Self-Sacrificers a few months earlier due to the many violations that he had committed.

He added: For a minister not to know about a matter is most unfortunate. If he does, is he so careless in his appointments that he does not look at the past records of individuals? With a telephone call, he could have asked Mr. Rafiqdust about the past record of the general manager appointed to the Urmia Cement Factory.

Stating that he supports almost all the ministers, Mr. Kamyar said: I expect the newspapers and media that broadcast the Majles reminders to report on the deputies who oppose one or two ministers. They should not present them as opponents, but as deputies who oppose one or two ministers and do not bring the Cabinet under question.

He said: The present Cabinet is the most important composition that the president could have presented. These new changes made in the Majles in particular will not leave any room for complaint and opposition. But the questioning of the deputies is beneficial. Mr. Kamyar mentioned the Ministry of Industries as having a weak administrator who is not knowledgeable about the ministry and declared the reasons for his opposition as follows:

1) The creation of chaos in the ministry and frequent postponements.

2) The appointment of incompetent individuals in administrative positions.

3) Huge, uncontrolled expenditures.

4) Very rude treatment of individuals in the ministry, even his deputies, even to the point of shouting.

5) The climate of fear and job insecurity for the employees.

6) Confusion regarding the situation of production and developmental projects.

Referring to the work of Mr. Na'matzadeh, he said: He has said that in order to provide the cheese needed by the country, we implemented about 35 industrial cheese production projects in 14 provinces, allocating $75 million in foreign currency. Of these 14 provinces, Western Azarbaijan, with 10 percent of the total national production, was not allocated any of these 35 industrial projects.

In response to the issues stated by some of the deputies against the Ministry of Petroleum, Mr. Aqazadeh, in a speech, referred to the speech of Engineer Nabavi, the deputy from Tehran, in connection with not achieving the revenues of the oil company projected in the Plan and said: In the four years of the Plan, we were supposed to have deposited $58,791,000,000 at an average price of $18.2 [per barrel] in the Treasury. The [average] budget that was ratified annually during the above-mentioned period was for $60,204,000,000, and the average rate that we were to deposit in the Treasury was revised by the Majles to $16.7 [per barrel].

According to the minister of petroleum, the revenues gained from the sale of oil were $61,828,000,000, which is more than the amount of the Plan and the budget.

He stated that the average price that was achieved was $13.4.

He referred to the speech of the chairman of the Majles Petroleum Affairs Committee, stating that this year the revenues cannot be achieved, and said: I will mention the four months of this year with the four months of last year and the four months of this year with the budget [sentence as published]. In the past four months, we had $3 billion in revenues. This figure compared to the budget is 90 percent higher and compared to last year is more than $500 million more. Mr. Nabavi said that we received $3 billion from the Majles to increase production. In 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], our production capability was 2,182,000 barrels, while the average production last year reached 3.7 million barrels.

Our production ability this year is above 4 million barrels. Aqazadeh continued: At the start of the Plan, about which the issue of $3 billion has been raised, our production was 2.5 million barrels on land, and now we have a production capability of 3.6 million on land.

In continuation, referring to another question of the deputy of Tehran concerning the failure to inject natural gas in the Aghajari Field, which causes 5 billion barrels of oil to be wasted, he said: Thank God, there are many oil experts in the Majles. The Aghajari Reservoir is one of the oldest reservoirs in the country. Prior to the revolution, 90 percent of the capacity of this reservoir was produced, and because the above-mentioned reservoir has nearly lost its total production, it must be reinjected for 20 years, and the injection of the Aghajari Reservoir no longer technically depends on time [sentence as published].

Concerning the cancellation of the agreement with the Norwegian company, he said: I have a great deal of respect for the Majles. We held discussions in the committee meeting. When I saw that the committee was not satisfied, I ordered the agreement to be canceled. The Petroleum Affairs Committee thanked me dozens of times for this.

In regards to the policy of the Ministry of Petroleum at OPEC, he said: We fought the Saudis in OPEC. The position of the Islamic Republic in OPEC is distinguished. When the directors of OPEC come to the president and say that they have come to see what the outcome of the disputes will be between Iran and Saudi Arabia in order to make a decision, it shows that we are not a follower of Saudi Arabia in OPEC.

The next speaker was Mr. Foruzesh, the minister of construction jihad.

Referring to the reforms that have been made in the administrative structure of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, he said: We dissolved the Animal Husbandry Organization and made a lot of reforms in the organization. If you taken the flexibility from the Ministry of Construction Jihad, it will become just like any other organization.

In another part of his speech, he said: We held the seminar on tribes. We gave university dormitory food to foreigners and natives, which was one kind of food and one kind of fruit, and the total cost was about 15 million tomans. We make the utmost use of the experts. With the experts, we reached the conclusion that we should hold this seminar. The results of the seminar are being published.

Concerning the implemental bylaws, he said: We ratified eight charters and bylaws. We are subject to the general regulations of the country. Because of the coordinated system of payments, we did not require any other bylaws.

The point was made that little use is made of machinery. Our operations are there to see. How much new machinery did we buy? After 15 years, they wear out. Our accomplishment is to make the most use of this machinery.

If there is any success, it is the result of the coordination and communication that exist.

Concerning dissolving the Central Council of the Construction Jihad, he said: I told Mr. Shar'i, the chairman of the Article 90 Committee, that I submit to the vote, and it is finished.

It can be that one has the responsibility and one does not have the authority, and vice versa. What I did was to honor the [Ministry of] Construction Jihad. In regards to the hake fish, we responded in the Third Majles, and Dr. Shahrzad was satisfied. A cargo had arrived, the Ministry of Health said it had problems. There were slight parasites that are seen just about everywhere in the world. Later, it was investigated and the damaged goods returned.

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session Monday, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. After speeches by several deputies, most of the president of the republic's recommended ministers gave speeches. Then the president of the republic made several statements in defense of some of the ministers who have been criticized. Then a vote was taken and 22 of the 23 ministers presented to the Majles received votes of confidence. Dr. Nurbakhsh did not receive a majority vote to assume the position of minister of economic and financial affairs. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Minister Speeches

Minister of Petroleum

Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum: One of the priorities of the Majles and the government is to replace oil products with natural gas.

He answered questions on why gas delivery is ahead of gas production. He said: If I had not invested in natural gas, we would now have to consume 2 million barrels of crude oil. In the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] we installed 117,000 service lines, and last year the number of service lines reached 1.6 million. Since the year 1365, 115 cities have received the benefits of natural gas, and more than 180 cities are now part of the gas delivery operations; this year's plans provide for 200 cities. One of the priorities of the Majles and the government is for us to replace oil products with natural gas. In the Five-Year Plan more than a 7.6-percent growth in replacements was planned. I say to you, praise God, that we have been able to achieve growth of 22 percent, or three times as much as that anticipated in the Five-Year Plan.

He then said: Last year we consumed 25 billion cubic meters [m^3] of our gas. Last year what city was not able to use natural gas? What power plant was deprived of natural gas? We now give more than 30 million m^3 of natural gas per day to the power plants alone, and last year our natural gas consumption reached 105 million m^3. As for what Kankani said, he certainly knows that for 10 months we have been consuming natural gas at below consumption capacity. Despite all this, last year natural gas production was 45 to 50 million m^3 higher. It was mentioned that there are 400,000 unused service lines, and the assumption was that we do not give them gas. No, these kinds of service lines or homes have either not opted for gas service or do not have the financial ability to draw gas. Their gas connection has nothing to do with this ministry. Another ministry is responsible for distribution.

I believe that we must advance in the area of gas with all the nation's ability, in order to replace oil with gas. In the Second Five-Year Plan we must provide gas delivery to the entire country. I firmly believe that every task achieved in gas is a positive message to the people about the revolution.

Aqazadeh discussed the manpower tragedy in the Ministry of Petroleum. He said: Compared to the existing sectors such as the oil regions, which produce crude oil, we have reduced the 20,000-man work force by 5,000, but we have not fired personnel. We took them to other units. We have now added 115 new cities to the gas delivery network. Don't they need management? Don't they need aid and specialist manpower? When the Esfahan oil plant, the Arak refinery and the utilization units are started, they do not need manpower. They say that the quality of manpower is low. How is it that the quality is low in a ministry of this huge size and extent, where we have started tens of new units with

high technology, and for which we have not used even one foreign employee to manage it? I say that we are the only nation in the region whose Ministry of Petroleum does not use a single foreign employee in the production of oil, operation activities, petrochemical products, natural gas and in all their complexes. When we announced that we were prepared to help Kuwait's oil industry specialists, many people said to me, sir, you're dreaming, you can't do it. I said: We can do it and do it better.

I wrote in the Five-Year Plan that one of my own most important goals in the second five years is this specialist manpower, which has already reached a desirable state. We must go and work outside the country. We are negotiating to carry out projects in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and African nations.

He also said: The Arak refinery was mentioned. We neither did exhibition work nor did we officially start operations. In the next few days the president of the republic is to open the Arak refinery, and I invite and urge Mr. Nabavi to come and watch it in person.

If he sees that it is a formality, he can tell the Majles, and if not, he will see that gasoline is being produced without lead or kerosene and that the refinery is operating. Let him come and tell the Majles.

Aqazadeh discussed sales offices outside the country. He said: Before I came to this ministry, we had a sales office in London and also one in Tehran. One of the useful things we did was to look at the world in terms of marketing and the state of crude oil consumption, to divide various areas and then to establish a base there for crude oil sales, one for the Caralib [as published area] (Canada), one for far Asia (Singapore), and one also in London.

Likewise, the maximum manpower in our sales offices is five.

However, we claimed a share in what they did. As for the proposal that we sell oil to middlemen, I said here several times that that was one of the useful things that were done. First of all, in the eight years that I have been in the Ministry of Petroleum, in the entire period of my responsibility we did not waste one dollar, that is to say we did not sell oil somewhere and not get the money. We did not give a discount anywhere. Our price is constantly known in the world and we are operating in the market of competition. I am speaking, and the president of the republic is also listening: we have not had a single day of problems with the sale of oil in the country. Throughout the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] we exported about 1.3 million barrels, but now we export about 2.6 million barrels. That is, our sales have doubled.

He also said concerning petrochemical issues: The nation's need for chemical substances is between $2.5 and $3 billion. I am creating replacements for imports. That is, God willing, in the year 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] we will be able meet all our petrochemical needs. I do not accept this saturation Engineer Nabavi has mentioned with regard to petrochemicals. If we really have a surplus on the petrochemical market, and you gave me permission in the First Five-Year Plan to do advance sales of petrochemical products and to invest in it out of natural gas revenue, how is it that in the past four years I was able to make advance sales for the next five years of $2.5 billion in petrochemical materials? If there is no market for it, how did this happen? We export $100 to $150 million annually in petrochemical materials. I think the respected Majles should require me to invest in this area as much as I can. In the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] we produced 305,000 tons of petrochemical materials. Last year this figure increased to 5.5 million tons. The capacity that we are now creating will increase the country's production of chemical substances in the petrochemicals sector to 12 million tons.

Remarks by Dr. Nurbakhsh, Nominee for the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs

At yesterday's open Majles session, Dr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic and financial affairs, defended this ministry's record. He said: There is a series of general questions in the minds of the deputies concerning economic affairs, and perhaps a specific ministry cannot answer them directly. Of course, one of the characteristics of economic organizations such as the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs is that while it is not directly responsible for some decisionmaking, it must answer for the general movement of the economy. As minister of economic and financial affairs, I consider myself obligated to answer those questions to the best of my ability.

He said: I will try to answer personally to questions concerning prices, debts, foreign credits and general economic policies in terms of social and economic justice. At the same time I think a more important matter concerning which you respected deputies should seek an answer from each minister is, if the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs acted on its economic program in the first term, what will this ministry's program be in the second term, in order that there be a criterion in the minds of the deputies for determining if the person who was minister of economic and financial affairs acted on his program, so that he can be depended upon in the next four years?

Mr. Nurbakhsh noted: In the programs that I presented in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], I grouped my major programs into three categories, the foreign exchange sector, the financial sector, and the money and banking sector.

In the foreign exchange sector, the essential principle has been written down as "a complete reassessment of Iran's foreign exchange market, ordering foreign exchange to reduce the bureaucracy and prevent an increase in the price of foreign exchange and ordering foreign exchange regulations to facilitate exchanges and encourage exports."

He added: When the responsibility was assigned to me, the foreign exchange market was chaotic and there was worry about changes in the price of foreign exchange outside the government. After the unification of the foreign exchange rate in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], the current situation developed in the market, which shows the government's success in bringing order to the foreign exchange market.

He also mentioned the establishment of regulations in the area of exports and the elimination of the foreign exchange contract as another of this ministry's successes.

The minister of economic and financial affairs noted: In the financial sector I have relied on two things, increasing tax

revenues and reducing the budget deficit by controlling costs in such a way that we can achieve financial equilibrium. The government's tax revenues have been 20 percent higher than the figure anticipated in the Five-Year Plan. In the first four months of the year 1372 [21 March-22 July 1993], on which I reported to most of the Majles commissions, direct taxes increased about nine percent more than the amount approved in the budget, and I hope that this will continue. With regard to these same financial policies, the budget deficit reached zero in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], and I think that the zero deficit will continue until the end.

Concerning tax programs, he said: What I think we must emphasize more in the next term is establishing a direction for tax revenues and making real use of a system that we are now compiling and establishing called the money and goods circulation system so that instead of looking for revenues at the end of the tax period and asking how much the tax revenues are, we will be able to know the revenues created throughout the tax operations, we will be able to estimate these revenues with more vision and insight and they will be able to collect the true taxes. We implemented this in the years 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] for the 100 companies who had the greatest added value. The results were quite positive. We can give the assurance that in the next Five-Year Plan, along with the question of increasing tax revenues we will have an informed process for estimating the true tax revenues along with the creation of tax revenues.

Mr. Nurbakhsh noted: In the Five-Year Plan Book in the section on foreign exchange the anticipated revenues and costs were recorded. In the years 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] our foreign exchange balance was negative, and we are making up the deficit, only in writing this plan two or things happened that were out of our control. One was the change in the price of the dollar against the mark, and our revenues are in dollars. Our expenses in Germany and Japan are mostly in these two currencies, and we had revenue reductions of $4 to $5 billion because of the change in the foreign exchange rate. The second factor is the change in the price of oil. The third is the pressures, especially in the years 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], which America and the other Western nations applied to our international credits, and these three factors were really the main cause of our indebtedness.

He said: The result of our work is that on the one hand we have controlled this indebtedness in such a way that if we showed you the direction of the indebtedness curve you would see that by the month of Mordad [23 July-22 August] most of the problems were solved. The rest of the year will be something for us where revenues exceed the expenses we must pay and our financial balance will be achieved, in view of the fact that in the face of these debts Mr. Ne'matzadeh and Mr. Nezhad-Hosryuian say with regard to the more than 168 financial procurement projects that have been presented that if we started some of them now we might not ever be able to complete them because of the dual technology and the provisions that have been made.

Remarks by Engineer Foruzesh, Nominee for Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade

The next speaker was Engineer Foruzesh. In answer to the opposition mounted by some of the deputies, he said: We think that these people have taken meticulous and aware steps and that this opposition is most valuable. We are certain that if we had had the opportunity in the past to confront these objections, we would have found sufficient opportunity and resources for what is in the minds of the sister and brother deputies.

He discussed the prolonged period for approving the organizations of the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade. He said: We did not have any approved organizations. After the division of responsibilities, when loans, natural resources, fisheries, development and rural industry affairs came to the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, we had to plan the organizations.

As of 9/24/1369 [15 December 1990] we organized the circulation of work, which continued until 12/27/1371 [17 March 1993].

He discussed the worn state of the reconstruction crusade's machinery. He said: Some of the machinery reached us before the revolution and some of the other machinery was war plunder. How much machinery have we purchased? We are working in 39,000 villages with more than 20 families and in 25,000 villages with fewer than 20 families throughout the country. It is my art to organize things in such a way as to make the best use of the machinery.

In praise of the dissolution of the Central Council, the minister of the reconstruction crusade said: The Article 90 Commission has given explanations and I have accepted their opinion. They said dissolution is your right, and I acceded to the commission's opinion immediately in a letter to the president of the republic.

He then discussed red meat imports. He said: I fully defend our record. According to the Five-Year Plan, in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] we were to have imported 226,000 tons, 227,000 tons in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 230,000 tons in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], and also 230,000 tons in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], and our record is 182,000 tons, 141,000 tons and 81,000 tons, respectively.

As the brothers on the Economic Council know, instead of importing, we saved 56 billion rials on 20 tons of imports by buying domestic livestock from tribal and rural peoples. We believe that meat imports can be brought down to zero and there is a strong possibility for domestic self-sufficiency.

He added: We are doing forestry work to grow fuel and develop green space, not for economic work.

I am proud that after years, in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] 25,000 contract workers received social security coverage.

What is being said about electricity is also untrue. For example I assume that the cost per kilometer is 1 million tomans. If the medium-voltage distance is more, this cost will be higher, and if it is less, the cost will be less. The price depends on the type of project and village to which the electricity is being supplied.

He discussed the fact that our final cost is even less in a place in the middle of the country. Concerning imports of hake and the rumor that it carries disease, he said: I explained this in the Third Majles, when a question concerning this was asked by Dr. Shahrzad, and after a study, the Ministry of Health stated that there was no problem, and he was satisfied.

Continuing, the minister of the reconstruction crusade discussed the importation of 800 combines. He said: In the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] the government had a problem. Domestic resources for producing combines were insufficient, and there was a surplus of freight in the ports. At that time the government announced that everyone should go and bring out the used combines, Three to four thousand combines were imported with the president of the republic's foreign exchange and we also brought 800 units. Doing this reduced the cost of shipping in the country by 20 percent. Until that time one of our problems was how to import bird seed. This task enhanced our work. As for the claim that regulations were not observed, we have a special law. We observed the law enacted by the Majles. All the brothers' legal criteria have been solved.

He also discussed the 100 bulldozers and noted: This number pertains to the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]. I was not the minister at that time. Some of the parts for this unit were sold by a company from Poland because the delivery time was shorter. Then Mr. Zanganeh, who was minister of the reconstruction crusade, ordered an investigation and all of our rights were obtained through the use of the services of the prime minister's legal office.

Elsewhere in his talk, Engineer Foruzesh discussed the Al-Jehad Company. He said: We have directors in Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Lebanon, Tanzania, Ghana, and Albania. Our colleagues in the Foreign Ministry tell us regularly that we should go to other countries. We must support them. Last year they did not even give us one dollar in foreign exchange for these operations. They told us to become self-sufficient and to spend the revenues in Africa. We did this, and made $1 million in profits the first year.

He noted that there are 300 companies similar to this one in Dubayy. He said: All these companies are our mantle and supervision, and there is no problem. We exercise proper, Islamic, godly and brotherly management arising from our belief. We are the largest organization in this country, and we are present everywhere from the cities down to the depths of the rural areas. There may sometimes be small violations, but if there is a violation, God forbid, are we going to close our eyes and support them? I assure you that we deal with violators. Our spirit is that we have the courage to do new things. In my view, there is nothing wrong with this, you must support us. We want to do something. If you say no, it is not necessary, we will review our method of supervising the issues.

The minister of the reconstruction crusade discussed imports and exports of meat and noted that we are in the process of implementing the policies of economic adjustment. He said: The policies of economic adjustment have their own application. The Majles has a law on exports and imports. At one time we realized that a large amount of livestock was being smuggled. We sent teams and they announced that in several minutes 700 head of goats and sheep were unloaded at a certain point to one of the nations of the southern shores of the Persian Gulf. We coordinated with our colleagues in the Ministry of Commerce to organize this task in such a way that we could control over the wave of smuggling. We said that only goats should be exported and for every kilogram of that, 2 kg of meat should be imported into the country. That concern some of the brothers have expressed concerning shortages will also be resolved.

He added: 23,000 head of livestock has been exported by the Tribal Affairs Organization, and the foreign exchange for that has also been spent by the tribes. Ten thousand head of livestock has been exported by the border area provinces for problems in those areas and 17,000 head has been exported by other applicants.

When we deliver livestock and poultry, we are immediately faced with the policies of deregulation. We are taking measures, working around the clock and being present in tens of thousands of producing units to deal with this reorganization. Our poultry has increased from 250,000 tons to 320,000 tons. Our eggs have increased from 315,000 tons to 390,000 tons, and meat has increased from 370,000 tons to 625,000 tons. We have asked for a guaranteed price, which has been approved.

He continued: Every year we have to import 60,000 to 70,000 tons of cheese. For the first time last year 10,000 tons of our domestic cheese entered into the rationed distribution network, and this year that figure will reach 20,000 tons. Concerning the reduction of imports, we believe that this has been done. Last year I started 24 cheese factories to save on foreign exchange, and they will go into operation next year. We saved $79 million for this task.

He explained: By transferring land to the people, we want to do irrigation work. I am not claiming that the government must do everything. If we do not do the work together, we will be defeated.

By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, we will have per-capita fish consumption of 7.2 kg. Today this figure is 3.6 kg and in the base year it was 2.9 kg. We will increase milk consumption to 90 kg, and we will increase red meat, which is now 10.7 kg, to 11.7 kg. We will increase chicken to 12.8 kg. In the base year egg consumption was 5 kg, and it will now reach 10.6 kg. There are now more than 5,000 personnel in the reconstruction crusade undergoing expert training programs. We have 1,382 personnel who have completed journeyman training programs. We have 508 students who have completed doctoral and master's programs who will join our group.

It is worth mentioning that the rest of his remarks were published in the previous issue.

Remarks by Engineer Gharazi, Minister of Post and Telegraph

Engineer Gharazi, the nominee for minister of post, telegraph and telephone, began his speech by discussing the Islamic Republic of Iran's satellite program. He said: The question of the satellite has its supporters and opponents, debating whether the country needs a satellite or not. The other issues concerning it are generally economic.

As minister I have a responsibility concerning which I will speak. I have said that if we do not have a satellite, Pakistan and Russia will be the substitute [as published]. I wrote a letter to Engineer Musavi whose text I will read:

"Consequently these orbits will be assigned to other nations such as Russia and Pakistan, who have the capability of implementing such projects, and..."

This letter was written on 8/19/1364 [28 November 1985]. The statements that were made in the Majles came four months after this letter. It was stated that if we do not have a satellite, Iraq and Israel will be the substitute [as published].

He then said: As minister it is my responsibility whenever satellite orbits are discussed in international organizations to defend us and say that we want orbit positions.

If, God forbid, some other country should get it, we will remind the officials of that country that if they do not want it, they will lose the orbit position.

When we got authorization from the Majles on this matter in the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], we began the work and put the contracting up for bids. When this project was put up for bids, some worried, God forbid, that the nation's interest might be endangered. They complained in various places, including the office of the exalted leader. The exalted leader's office said through Mr. Nateq that Gharazi should be stopped until the issue could be clarified. I stopped and the work is still stopped. The discussion that was held has been raised twice in the international ICU organization. The orbits mentioned are at 26 degrees, 34 degrees, 41 degrees and 47 degrees. It appears that the 41-degree orbit may be assigned to Pakistan. According to existing documents, Saudi Arabia is seeking the 26-degree orbit. In accordance with my religious duty I have submitted a letter to the exalted leader and the chiefs of the three powers, and discussed the issue. I said that any order you give will be obeyed. The exalted leader wrote that the matter of the satellite must be discussed and debated in the Supreme Security Council. We will willingly do whatever the Supreme Security Council says. The matter is being discussed for one to two months right now in the aforementioned council.

Continuing his remarks, he then said: Mr. 'Abdollahi raised another issue, asking me why I want a satellite that does other things besides communications. My brother, my esteemed colleague, technology is advancing. At one time they were used just for communications or radio and television. Now multipurpose satellites are being built. Moreover, I do not think it is in our interest not to use satellites in other areas.

Engineer Gharazi also answered those who oppose increasing the telephone card rate. He said: Another thing they said to me was, you said you are self-sufficient, but in return for all the money you took from the people, as of the year 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] there were 100,000 telephones in the hands of the people. The price of a telephone in the year 1354 [21 March 1975-20 March 1976] was about 2,200 tomans and in the year 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] it increased to 7,200 tomans. Note 67 of the Budget Bill for 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] prohibits the telephone company from paying rial costs (current or development), and it says go become self-sufficient. The Majles approved this legislation and the government is implementing it.

In the government and the Majles I have defended this, saying that this was a very correct decision that the Majles made. The costs of a telephone, on which personal affairs are conducted, should not be paid with tax money. Whoever wants to have a telephone should pay the costs himself, and the telephone company's general assembly was charged with setting the prices of telephones. In the year 1363 the price of a telephone was set at 15,000 rials. At that time I was not in the ministry. Engineer Morteza Nabavi was there and this happened. When I went to that ministry in the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], there were 450,000 telephone accounts from the year 1359 and no one was getting a telephone. Two weeks later I realized from the Majles vote of confidence that in the Majles close to 60 or 70 of the respected deputies had accounts from the year 1359. I even had a dear friend who had an account from the year 1346 [21 March 1967-20 March 1968]. There were therefore 450,000 telephones on the shoulders of the telephone company in the year 1364 without the help of the government.

They said that in these five years I took about 250 billion tomans from the people. I did not take that much money. We added the cumulative investment costs between the years 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and the total was 156 billion tomans. Since the year 1364 when there were 450,000 telephones in the hands of the people and only 300,000 in Tehran. Today in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] the number has reached 1.2 million. The Majles did this price adjustment. I am implementing the price adjustment. I therefore in no way increased the price of telephones. In the Economic Council the president of the republic said that the price of a telephone should be 100 tomans, meaning the price from the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Engineer Gharazi added: Since I first came into the cabinet I have vigorously sought price adjustments, meaning since the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] when I was in the Ministry of Petroleum. In the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, the adjustment really produced results. In these eight years we have delivered 2 million telephones to the people, and right now in 20 parts of Tehran the telephone is being updated, meaning that everyone is going and getting telephones. A great and proper task has therefore been done in the Telephone Company.

Mr. 'Abdollahi pointed that in an interview on 12/18/1369 [18 February 1991] I said that we needed 300,000 telephones that year, but I delivered 181,000 telephones. I say, Your Excellency, Mr. 'Abdollahi, you understand the culture of communications, there is a big difference between legislation and delivery: 300,000 were assigned, 181,000 were delivered. My difference with Mr. 'Abdollahi is that I say that first the number of telephones should be high, then per-capita income will increase. He says that first per-capita income should increase, then the telephones will be numerous. Here, the people and the Majles decide, not us.

He then added: Dr. Zali asked me what I will be doing with my subordinates. I hope that our likes and dislikes are for the sake of God. I have four criteria for appointments (1)

they must be Muslim, (2) they must be revolutionary, (3) they must follow the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult and, (4) they must be adequate. Whoever has these four qualifications has my confidence and interest. As for those who are now serving, I am not going to do a purge. If there are people in various positions and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior who have these qualifications, the important thing for me is performance, not slogans. If I see that their performance is positive, I will certainly have no hesitation about keeping them. If there are people who have disturbed the people or who may disturb the people and who disappoint and exasperate the people, I will have no hesitation about firing them, no matter who they are (audience approval).

In conclusion, he discussed communications technology. He said: In the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] we converted five foreign contracts to domestic contracts. In the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] we converted seven contracts, in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] five contracts, 36 contracts in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], 57 contracts in the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 51 contracts in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and so far in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] 39 contracts.

Remarks by Besharati, Minister of the Interior

Besharati, the nominee for the Ministry of the Interior, began his talk by discussing the issues raised by the deputy from Sarband. He said: Concerning the open political atmosphere, we all want the political atmosphere that is abundantly available in the country. We must guarantee the nation's security. Security is the atmosphere for any kind of activity. I therefore will not tolerate any kind of insecurity from any person. Security is for everyone, and insecurity is not acceptable from anyone, on any pretext, for any reason and no matter who it is. We are obligated to have the elections take place in a sound environment, without interference from anyone and no matter what person or thing the result may be. The confrontation with insurgents, corrupt people and merchants of death will continue with greater force without any kind of hesitation or negligence.

Recently we have been able to have serious discussions with our neighbors and to create a strategic relationship in which we will be able with their help to close our borders. No country, not even a superpower, can unilaterally close its borders. In this regard the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been able to sign a strategic treaty with our neighbors and to convince them to close the borders and to prevent the entry and departure of unauthorized people. We have been able to do this with two neighbor nations, and until we reach that stage we continue our struggle against those in this country who create insecurity in various ways and who torment our dear, martyr-nurturing and esteemed people, and we will deal with them vigorously, relentlessly, and around the clock.

We have a relationship with the judicial power, a very, very friendly relationship, we have an emotional relationship, a logical relationship, and an emotional relationship pertaining to me personally, and a legal relationship pertaining to the Ministry of the Interior. With the help of the judicial power, through the power and grace of God, we will be able to solve the security problems.

In these few years that have gone by in the revolution, I have shown my essence. I accepted the post of the Ministry of the Interior so I would be able, to the best of my ability, to render a service, however small, to the nation of the Imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent). I felt that the country needs me. I accepted this responsibility with complete humility and pride in order that I might serve.

I am prepared to lay my 35 years of social and political reputation at the feet of this revolution, for which the best forces, the best individuals, virtuous and pure and sound people shed their blood, for the 250,000 martyrs of this revolution, for the 600,000 people who were wounded for this revolution and for those who gave their lives or were wounded for aspirations. My feeling is that our aspirations must be those of the ones with the broken bones, the riddled bodies and the martyrs who aspired to come back to life in the presence of their God.

In the last moments of his life the late Sheykh Morteza Ansari was unhappy and cried. They asked, sir, why are you crying? He said: I am unhappy because my reputation was not spent for the sake of Islam. I am prepared to spend my reputation for the sake of this nation, and I hope that I will be able to repay your kindness.

Remarks by Dr. Najafi, Minister of Education and Training

He thanked the president of the republic for selecting him again as minister, and also the Majles deputies who have approved the performance of the Ministry of Education and Training. He said: So far some of the brothers have voiced two criticisms of the Ministry of Education and Training. One is the matter of developing education in the deprived areas, especially the rahnema'i and middle schools, and the other is the creation and development of nonprofit schools.

He discussed the matter of developing education in the country. He said: Early in the previous academic year about 95 percent of the children aged six to 10 received elementary education, and this is a source of pride for the revolution and our nation. In the year of the triumph of the revolution this figure was 74 percent.

He added: Today we have schools in most of the nation's remote villages, and in some places, with the help of the literacy crusade and also using soldier teachers, in any case we have provided coverage for the elementary cycle.

He continued: Last year in the intermediate rahnema'i cycle the average growth of students was 10 percent. If we compare that to the population growth rate in society, we see how much added pressure is coming to bear on the Ministry of Education and Training and the government due to the growth in the student population.

He said: In the 1371-1372 [1992] academic year the growth in students in the rahnema'i and intermediate cycles was 13 percent compared to the previous year, and I believe that it cannot move any faster than this in view of the limitations and problems facing the development of rahnema'i and intermediate education in the country. Sometimes the creation of rahnema'i and middle schools needs specialist manpower, as well as equipment for laboratories and special workshops.

The minister of education and training predicted that by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan the number of intermediate school students will be double the current number.

He discussed the creation of semicentralized schools. He said: This subject was discussed in the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Law, and authorization was given for us to spend a percentage of the development budget on minibuses and to use this means to transport students from sparsely populated rural areas to heavily populated areas. In this way we will develop the rahnema'i and intermediate schools. God willing this will begin in the 1372-1373 [1993] academic year, and the preparations have been made.

Concerning the nonprofit schools and their development, he said: In this regard the Ministry of Education and Training is implementing the law. The law establishing these schools was passed in the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] and we are implementing this law. Of course I support the creation of nonprofit schools and I believe that they have developed to a sufficient extent in the country.

He added: Regardless of the approval or disapproval of the executive apparatus in the Ministry of Education and Training, this law was passed by the Majles and must be implemented. In the First Five-Year Plan it was stipulated that by the end of the plan we should have 358,000 students in the nonprofit schools. Unfortunately, because of the slow movement in this area, this year we only expect to have 250,000 students studying in these schools. Therefore the only area in the First Five-Year Plan where we are behind in the Ministry of Education and Training is in the number of students in the nonprofit schools, where we have worked at a lower level than that provided in the plan approved by the Majles.

He said: As for the question of whether these schools will really end in creating class divisions in society, I believe that if the projections and plans that the government and the Ministry of Education and Training have made to create balance in education and training issues and to create equal educational opportunity for students in various parts of the country are implemented properly, not only will there be no class divisions, but also suitable conditions will be created for creating healthy competition between the nonprofit and government sectors, and on the other hand part of the government's resources will be freed for investment in the deprived areas and in the remote rural areas.

In conclusion he said: At this time if you study the results of the national university admissions examinations for this very year, you will see that almost all of the outstanding and high-level students taking the examination are from government schools or even from remote municipalities. Therefore, at this time there is absolutely no worry that the nonprofit schools will create class divisions in education and training. In the long-term plan, by allocating suitable resources to the government sector, our plan is to completely prevent the creation of a special social class through education and training.

Dr. Marandi, Minister of Health Care and Treatment

Dr. Marandi, minister of health: The issue of drugs is a big problem, and after the vote, this week in the first meeting we will discuss the drug issue.

In answer to a question about universal insurance, Dr. Marandi said: When the bill forming the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education was written, and I was one of the authors and presenters of this bill, one of the paragraphs in this law was about universal insurance. The government was to present a bill to you, and the respected government began this work. The esteemed deputies came forward and presented this bill to the Majles. During the war, due to the credit deprivation and the like, it was not approved and this law remains in force. If the respect and importance of universal insurance has not increased, it has not decreased.

I will work ceaselessly to get such a bill passed, especially since the respected Council of Ministers has presented this bill to you again and it is now in the Majles.

In answer to the question from Mr. Dari Najafabadi concerning the bill on generic drugs and the shortage of drugs, Dr. Marandi said: God blessed me in that when Dr. Zargar was minister of health care, the revolutionary things he did included ordering the creation of a new drug system project, one of whose pillars was the generic drug project.

He added: Praise God, from that day on I saw and defended its progress, and praise God those who acted made us proud. I will continue my ceaseless efforts to implement all its dimensions and not just the generic drug project. There is a shortage of drugs and there is great demand. If I am to assume the task of serving, a telegram has already been written, and after the vote is taken, I will send it to the experts and we will have the first meeting on the drug issue this very week.

He noted: The preparation of drugs, the procurement of drugs, the distribution of drugs and the provision of drugs is not just related to health care and treatment and education and medicine. It is a great strategic item. The immediate needs of the people must be met, and this is related to the various organizations and government groups. If, God forbid, there should be a shortage of rials or foreign exchange, if the government should be indebted to some factory or if there is insufficient supervision, it is possible that provisions will not be made for it.

Remarks by Engineer Mahluji, Minister of Mines and Metals

Mr. Mahluji was asked by one of the deputies why he sold steel products to the Bali Company at low prices. He said: The company buys rods purchased at $317, but the world price is $315 to $317. Our steel situation today in the world is so good that Mr. Taromi, our ambassador in China, called and said: Iran's steel costs $5 to $10 per ton more in China's markets than the steel from Russia and Turkey.

In answer to another question concerning the purchase of ingots, he said: Those who are familiar with economic terms know that the C & F price is higher than the basic price. It is true that our national group buys from abroad for $280. Until four years ago the national steel group bought ingots from abroad, but this problem was alleviated with the startup of the steel complex.

One of the deputies asked Mr. Mahluji about the Ministry of Mines and Metals' lack of success in copper, steel, and aluminum. He answered: This is quite surprising to me.

What was to be achieved in the steel sector by the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1993] was 8.9 million tons, but the actual figure was 9.8 million tons, meaning we had 1 million tons extra. In the copper sector we were supposed to produce 240,000 tons, and now we have 422,000 tons. We were supposed to produce 161,000 tons of aluminum, but 242,000 tons were produced. Now how are we behind in the plan?

He added: We have done the greatest work in the steel sector. Units like the Industrial Steel Group, the Ahvaz Steel Complex, and the Esfahan Steel Foundry are among the units that were at the beginning of their work when they were started. Today these units have all been built and rebuilt, have reached capacity, have distributed their own goods on the domestic market and have saturated the domestic market. Today the Esfahan Foundry's favorable situation is one of this government's proud achievements. Today we have one of the most modern and most advanced gold mining technologies at the Kolur mines.

The minister of mines and metals discussed this ministry's record, plans and favorable situation. He said: Didn't you deputies want this ministry to export for you, and no longer to rely on oil foreign exchange? We are now that ministry. We are a ministry that does not even use floating foreign exchange. We are a ministry most of whose production units are operating with their own exports.

He added: We began with $40 million in exports, and in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] we reached $420 million.

In the first four months and 15 days of the year [21 March-7 August 1993] we have exported almost 1 million tons of steel.

In the first four months of the year [21 March-22 July 1993] we have had almost $300 million in nonoil exports.

Concerning a question from one of the deputies about ostentation in this ministry, Mr. Mahluji answered: If we have done this in the Ministry of Mines and Metals, it is because we believe that the management system prevailing in many of the ministries is just like the one that existed under the Qajars.

Ultimately, this must be changed one day. One of the reason for our success has been a change in the way of looking at things, a change in the approach taken and a change in point of view in terms of management and economics in our ministry. We are saying that we have new management.

He added: I cannot think that I am a Muslim and that my slogan is less is more and that my slogan is cleanliness is from faith, while I have a ridiculous ministry. The minister of mines and metals is a member of the Supreme Administrative Council. He is seeking to automate the administrative system, to create a new atmosphere. We have done this. I am in three buildings. One of them is worth 300 million tomans. It has been freed. Is it right or wrong to do this? These are made from the stones of this country, from Tabriz, Hamadan, and Esfahan. This dear brother expects me to put carpet or tile on the floor and then take a new management system there.

Remarks by Engineer Ne'matzadeh, Minister of Industries

Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, nominee for minister of industries, discussed issued raised by the deputy from Sarband-e Arak concerning factory shares. He said: Despite the fact that the debate about transferring ownership to the private sector was new after the revolution and was a task for which there was no previous experience, fortunately, with the government's attention and insight and the studies we did in numerous and repeated meetings with Dr. Habibi, the decisions and guidelines were such that they guided us to do the work and effort so that this work would be done in the best way.

At the outset it was thought that the stock market organization had the ability to do all of this, but after a little over a year of experience the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs came to the conclusion that along with the stock market other procedures should be used such as auctions and direct negotiations. This was approved in the legislation of 2/1/1371 [21 April 1992] and communicated to the organizations, and we began our work using these methods. Unfortunately under the performance of the National Industries Organization, which is a part of our ministry, of the total of 387 billion rials in assets that we have transferred so far, 310 billion tomans, meaning more than 80 percent, was done through the stock market, and about 46 companies and 16 companies, which make up about 20 percent of the total, were transferred outside the stock market. [sentence as published]

He discussed the agricultural conversion industries. He said: We agree that both in the years before and after the revolution good investment has not been done in the nation's conversion industries. Of course, this does not mean that it has been done in the other sectors, but in this area we are truly faced with a huge deficit. Despite the fact that in the First Five-Year Plan nothing was said about this area and the growth in the consumer industry was seen as only 20 percent, all the nation's conversion industries were covered in budgets for the subsequent years with the help of the president of the republic and with the support of the government in the form of budget notes and aid. With about 20 or 30 projects with $400 million in allocations we were able to open credits and 54 projects were put into operation by the end of last year [20 March 1993]. This year about 80 more projects will also be started and we hope that by the end of next year [20 March 1995] the rest will also be put into operation. In addition to this, about 4,000 agreements in principle have been issued for the nation's conversion industries during the past four years, and this figure is unprecedented. About 500 projects have also been started. I can say that this is one of the things of which the Minister of Industries is proud.

Engineer Ne'matzadeh discussed the dismissal of undesirables and other competent individuals. He said: We really think that this is unfair and its extent is such that two of our deputy ministers were at least candidates for the ministry. One of them, Mr. Al-e Eshaq, is with you. We really valued his service. We are still with another one, and the competence of our other deputy ministers is at the same level, and none of them are any less than this. I can say with assurance that the rest of our general managers have ethical, executive

and experience competence, and if there is a special case and it is not like Urmia Cement, we are at the service of you deputies.

With regard to our enormous expenses, we are scrupulous to the extent that we are able. One of the Majles commissions asked me why we are so strict and do not spend money. I said that we see some people who speak in another way. In short, we are accused of excessive strictness.

He also added: Those who are familiar with industry and approach it fairly know that today the nation's industry not only is not in disarray, but that it is in a very good situation compared to the last four years.

Remarks by Dr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, Minister of Heavy Industries

Dr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, nominee for the Ministry of Heavy Industries, began his speech by discussing the sale of companies. He said:

Not every company on the stock market can be sold. The stock market has conditions and a company cannot be sold until the conditions are met. The conditions are (1) it must be a producing company, (2) it must be profitable, (3) there must be agreement between the selling organization and the stock market on the base price. Likewise, we have no problem with regard to shares transferred to the workers in the same factories and so far this has been done.

He then said: Just as Mr. Ne'matzadeh also said, we have not transferred the ownership of any company through negotiations and without bidding. Every company that has been transferred has been transferred at auction and with newspaper advertisements. Concerning the Iran Vehicle Company, which they said was considered a mother industry and wanted to know why we wanted to transfer its ownership, I have spoken on this before. The Council of Ministers enacted a measure concerning the transfer of these kinds of companies and it required the development organization to sell them, but there was a question about whether problems might arise later because these companies might be transferred illegally. The respected speaker of the Third Majles was asked to announce it if the legislation was in violation of the law. After the studies he did, Mr. Karrubi announced in writing to the government that this legislation was not in violation of the law. The government has given the authorization.

Engineer Al-e Eshaq, Minister of Commerce

As you know, commerce is one of the areas that are close to practically all the nation's affairs. From economics to art, from education and training to sports, you will not find an area that is not closely tied to commerce. One such area is policymaking. If planning is not done centrally and in a calculated way somewhere, it will certainly cause problems in other affairs.

He added: Commerce has a close relationship to the people in several areas of current affairs. Commerce and the people in connection with all classes of society have duties, which consist of delivering goods and basic goods in view of the pattern of consumption and the legislation we now have for all classes of society from north to south, from city to village, at the fixed and completely controlled price. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce to deliver basic goods within the budget and with approved resources. The Ministry of Commerce has a basic responsibility to the deprived, oppressed and vulnerable classes, because especially in times of economic adjustment and the necessity to get beyond the economy of war conditions and the free economy we will certainly see side effects, and these side effects will put great pressure on the vulnerable and deprived classes. It is here that the Ministry of Commerce has a very important responsibility to ease these problems and to prepare, God willing, for the policies of economic adjustment to do their work. Concerning the matter of economic adjustment, which is our economic bottom line and with this model that is being implemented, the position of the Ministry of Commerce under today's conditions is certainly a special one.

The brothers in the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs and the Plan and Budget Organization, using the three tools of monetary and financial policy and setting the foreign exchange rate, have so far brought the banner of economic adjustment to this point and in my view they have also done very important work, although we have had problems along the way and these problems must be resolved in a desirable way.

In my view, from this moment on will be a time for the emergence of commercial policies, and if commercial polices are not aligned with other economic policies, these policies of economic adjustment certainly will not have valuable results.

In order for the Ministry of Commerce to be able to succeed in the adjustment process it must step out of the sidelines onto center stage, because the sidelines are always the sidelines and center stage is always center stage. This will not happen except with the cooperation of the respected Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs and the support of you dear ones in the Majles, and with organization and policymaking. God willing this will happen if we help each other.

Another question is, what is our commercial place in international affairs and international commerce? Are we a country that has $20 billion in foreign exchange costs, occupying 120th place in the international classification system, or not? We are a country with vast resources. We are a gateway to entry into the huge international markets, and the Ministry of Commerce and commercial policies can be the focus for these economic classifications. God willing, if it is supported, we hope that the Ministry of Commerce will also be able to do something in this area.

Remarks by the President of the Republic

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, gave a speech at Monday morning's Majles session. He expressed his satisfaction with the deputy debates at the meeting to study the ministerial nominees. He mentioned the major problem with the guidelines and said: Why don't you who protest everything and rightfully want reforms reform your own work? We know that these things are based on justice and that there are places that must be reformed and justice must be established. This is an example of executive work, where you have understood how difficult executive work is.

He characterized the Majles debates as intellectual, and said: The deputies have taken on infrastructure work, which has made serious progress. Water, electricity, industry, agriculture, and exports have improved and imports have fallen.

Continuing, the president of the republic added: The Majles called for the transfer of factory ownership, and then some of them criticized it, asking why they were transferred. These are problems and the deputies are expressing their own views. There were debates about three or four ministers, which were somewhat unfair and I feel the need for planning on the issue, and God willing there will be misgivings about this issue.

I also had these problems in the previous cabinet, and this is neither Islamic, revolutionary, nor worthy of a free deputy, for the people did not vote for us this way.

Let us come and speak the truth, that which we ourselves discern. If anyone is opposed to any minister he should vote against him, and if he gives special consideration for anyone, we really don't agree with it. Don't even give special consideration to me. Of course, we have always seen this freedom in the Majles. The management of the Majles was interesting for me. In fairness, within the limits of the guidelines the Speaker's Council and Mr. Nateq have managed well. Likewise, I have been unable to find anything containing personal preferences.

The president of the republic then said: One of those two or three ministers was the minister of petroleum. In fairness, the things that were said here were unfair. The great work that the Ministry of Petroleum did and tried to plan were ignored. Everything we asked of it was done. Production doubled. The petrochemical industry, which is one of our nation's serious needs, was criticized here for not having a market. We now have $2 or $3 billion in petrochemical imports, which is being criticized here. They are asking why it has become so much while we have invested and we are already making sales for the next five years. We have a relative distinction in that we can compete with any other country in the world, and this added value, which the petrochemical industry has, enables us to compete in the world under any circumstances.

They are criticizing natural gas. They say that there are 300,000 service lines without natural gas. One has to be uninformed to say this. We are now producing more than 100 million m^3 and we consume less than 65 million of it, and 40 million has been invested and is not being used.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked why these kinds of things are being said in the Majles. He said: Although this is the right of the deputies, I expect the deputies also to see the other side of the issue.

The president of the republic discussed the criticisms made of the minister of the reconstruction crusade. He said: There was also some unfairness about the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade. I came to know Mr. Forouzesh on the battlefield at the time when the slogan was "unprotected builders of fortifications." The people now serving in the reconstruction crusade are these same people. Now is it possible that there could be violations?

Mr. Hashemi then praised the services of the reconstruction crusade in building rural roads, bringing electricity to the rural areas and other things. He said: The deputies defended the general form of the reconstruction crusade, which is correct, but in any case this reconstruction crusade is an aggregate. Therefore, in general I think that he is one of those who was in the reconstruction crusade from the first moment. Like all of us, he is not above criticism. It is even possible that some of the Majles deputy criticisms are appropriate.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed Engineer Mahluji, the nominee for the Ministry of Mines and Metals. He said: The nation is truly proud of the transformations in copper, zinc, and steel. He made decisions with courage. We have gone from 1.2 or 1.3 million tons of steel to 4.5 million tons. Formerly steel was a foreign exchange user, and today it requires no foreign exchange from us. Price reform was itself an important task. Is it possible to develop steel at the price of 12 tomans per kilogram? Copper was also the same way. They brought the copper and we sold it on the market for 25 tomans per kilogram. Some people were buying it as scrap for 400 to 500 tomans. I am surprised that the gentlemen who are talking about reform are never bothered that we sold copper for 25 tomans, $3.00 to $3.50, and then the brokers took it abroad and sold it at a high price. This task required bravery, and they brought in these great projects and prevented the destruction of the nation's great resources.

The president of the republic added: If ostentation is bringing stones from one's own mines and using them for construction work in the ministry, then we ought not to use architectural stone! There are stones in the office where I live. Where the stone is, it is still clean after 50 years! Is it right for us to say in the Majles that stone is ostentation? Is it ostentation for us to convert small rooms to a large hall so that a manager can supervise his employees? It is not logical to accuse a constructive man of understanding in this way.

Continuing his talk, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone. He said:

They are questioning a minister who destroyed the black market for telephones, in which telephones were sold for 400,000 to 500,000 tomans, while we were formerly selling telephones for 15,000 tomans. Likewise, they are also questioning him because the satellite project involves development. Of course, this project has gone nowhere, and is being debated and studied in the Supreme National Security Council.

The exalted leader has asked us to implement it if necessary and if it is not necessary, not to implement it. We made an overall study of telephone technology and made arrangements so they could install 1 million telephones per year with their own budget, giving priority to the nation's domestic industries. In a certain case, a decision might be made, perhaps it will need to be amended later. Today your nation is in need of brave decisions. If someone wants them to say things to him, he should leave all these tasks at rest.

He discussed Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum. He said: One of the positive people in our cabinet is Mr. Aqazadeh, who accepts danger and advances the work.

The president of the republic praised the ministers in the industry sector. He said: Mr. Ne'matzadeh, minister of industries, is one of our successful managers. In this area he has worked very hard.

Mr. Nemad-Hoseynian (heavy industries), Mr. Mahluji (mines and metals), and Mr. Ne'matzadeh (industries) have really saved our industry. I have also given them a lot of support.

The president of the republic discussed the great tasks done by the Ministry of Energy. He noted: When we started working, there was fear of an electrical power failure in the nation. Now, however, a great task has been carried out so that we will not have an energy shortage. In this regard 25 large dams are being built and they have prepared about 50 dams for planning. These are among the great achievements of the gentlemen during this period.

Mr. Hashemi also praised the activities of the ministers nominated for the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance. and the Ministry of Intelligence, and then he said: There was little criticism of the Ministry of Agriculture, and only questions.

I am truly pleased with these people. In agriculture we are truly coming close to self-sufficiency and this has always been one of our hopes.

He added: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not criticized, and that was right, since our foreign minister's experience is so great he manages the Islamic Republic of Iran's most difficult work. Unfortunately, we do not have a minister of foreign affairs here. Everyone thinks he is the foreign minister and gives his opinion. We see that with one speech and one editorial, work it took him three months to do is ruined. He therefore has a difficult task before him and he must be strengthened and supported more than before.

The president of the republic discussed the new faces in the cabinet. He said: Our new ministers are Mr. Al-e Eshaq, Dr. Hashemi, Dr. Marandi, Torkan, Foruzandeh, Basharati, and Akhundi, and each of them has important work to do.

He noted: I hope the deputies will not disrupt this coordinated cabinet, which was chosen in view of the intellectual issues in society, the Majles and the work force, although if you believe that some minister is not competent, I have no expectation that you vote for him. However, please vote only on the basis of your belief, not something else, the same thing I do. God will take care of the other issues.

After the speech by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majles thanked the Council of Ministers, the president of the republic, and the Majles deputies and added: The deputies have presented the issues without confusion, those in opposition have spoken with expertise and have explained the conclusions they have reached, and one has understood this to be devotion and performance of obligation and duty. The deputies must do their duty in such a way as to make the spirit of the Imam (peace be upon him) joyful, in a way that is pleasing to God and His Holiness Mahdi (may God hasten his joyful advent), and in a way that will also please the exalted leader, in order to perform their mission well, and to vote for this cabinet in a way that will please God.

Complete Table of Majles Deputy Votes for the President's Ministerial Nominees

Row	Ministry	Minister	Total Votes	Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions
1	Education and Training	Mohammad 'Ali Najafi	261	147	73	36
2	Intelligence	'Ali Felahian	261	204	24	27
3	Economic and Financial Affairs	Mohsen Nurbakhsh	261	127	75	49
4	Foreign Affairs	'Ali Akbar Velayati	261	207	17	43
5	Commerce	Yahya Al-e Eshaq	261	222	13	26
6	Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education	'Ali Reza Marandi	261	246	4	11
7	Post, Telegraph and Telephone	Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi	261	192	38	21
8	Cooperatives	Gholamreza Shafe'i	261	229	9	18
9	Reconstruction Crusade	Gholamreza Foruzesh	261	152	70	27
10	Justice	Esma'il Shushtari	261	233	5	18
11	Defense and Armed Forces Logistics	Mohammad Foruzandeh	261	233	9	20
12	Roads and Transportation	Akbar Torkan	261	176	34	48
13	Heavy Industries	Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian	261	231	12	16
14	Industries	Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh	261	194	29	29
15	Culture and Higher Education	Mohammad Reza Golpaigani	261	220	12	29
16	Culture and Islamic Guidance	'Ali Larijani	261	219	14	29
17	Labor and Social Affairs	Hoseyn Kamali	261	224	18	17
18	Agriculture	'Ese Kalantari	261	215	23	23
19	Interior	'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi	261	225	14	21
20	Housing and Urban Construction	'Abbas Ahmad Akhundi	261	193	47	22
21	Mines and Metals	Hoseyn Mahluji	261	166	54	38
22	Petroleum	Gholamreza Aqazadeh	261	134	88	25
23	Energy	Bizhan Namdar-Zanganeh	261	202	37	18

Majles Notes

At the open Majles session Monday morning Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hasan Nasrollah, general secretary of the Lebanon Hezbollah movement, and his delegation were in the Majles spectator's gallery and saw the Majles proceedings firsthand.

This delegation was accompanied by Dr. Hasan Rowhani, chief of the Foreign Policy Commission, and several members of this commission.

A number of Parliamentary Services personnel distributed a letter to the deputies during the proceedings, and Mr. Nateq-Nuri vigorously opposed this. He said: "What is this that you are distributing... Shouldn't you have gotten permission to distribute it? Do not distribute it."

After the speech by Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone, Reza 'Abdollahi, deputy from Mahneshan, issued a guidelines memo under Paragraph 5 Article 76, announcing that Engineer Gharazi had distorted his remarks."

He said: The essence of the interview was that in the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] 500,000 telephone numbers will be assigned to applicants and that 300,000 of the 500,000 numbers that were in this year's program for the telephone company have been assigned to the people.

He added: Here it is completely clear that he said that they assigned 300,000 numbers to the people, yet the statistics on telephone assignments to the people were 170,000 numbers, which was distorted.

Mr. Kamyar, deputy from Urmia, who asked the question about the Urmia Cement factory in opposition to the minister of industries, said in a letter to the speaker of the Majles before the speech by Mr. Ne'matzadeh: In view of the fact that the executive director of the Urmia Cement Factory was appointed by the Social Security Organization Investment Company, I therefore consider Mr. Ne'matzadeh to be without fault in this regard.

The speech by the candidate for Ministry of the Interior attracted the attention of the deputies, and this speech was received throughout by loud "bravo"s of approval from the deputies, so that after Mr. Basharati's speech, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: These bravos and approvals took part of Mr. Basharati's time.

In a general and passing look at the votes of confidence by the deputies for the proposed ministers, Dr. Marandi, as minister of health care, treatment and medical education, with 246 votes of approval, received the highest number of votes, and Engineer Aqazadeh, as minister of petroleum, with 134 votes, received the lowest number of votes.

Likewise, Dr. Nurbakhsh, with 127 votes in favor, did not receive a majority and thus did not receive a vote of confidence from the Majles.